

## Flats set to be rejected to make way for travellers' site

# HOMES PLAN FOR OLD PUB OPPOSED

BY JORDAN HARRIS

**PROPOSALS for an abandoned pub to be bulldozed to make way for flats could be refused because the site has been earmarked for travellers.**

Sukhjit Khera wants to demolish the old Wheel Inn in Lindon Road, Brownhills, and build 21 apartments along and create 22 parking spaces.

But planning officers on Walsall Council have recommended the application be thrown out because it has instead been touted to accommodate two plots for the travelling community.

The planning committee was due to make a decision today (Thursday) but has been recommended by officers to refuse the plans.

The site has been earmarked in a 'Site Allocation Document', which lists potential spots where travellers could legally stay, to be created over the coming years in line with Government regulations.

The plan was in the pipeline when the application to bulldoze the pub was submitted in October 2015. Officers say the document now has 'substantial weight' because no-one has objected to the Wheel Inn making way for travellers during a consultation.

Case officer Alison Ives said: "The proposal results in the loss of a community facility which has been closed for several years and there appears to be no requirement for such a facility in this location.

"There are also alternative community facilities in the form of the local shops opposite the site and pubs available in Brownhills, for example the Anchor Inn on Chester Road.

"It has been difficult to identify potential new sites for showpeople in the emerging site allocation documents because the use poses a challenge in needing to provide access for heavy vehicles, heavy equipment storage and maintenance, whilst being suitable for winter residential quarters for showpeople and their families.

"The application site is the only one in the borough that lies between two existing showpeople sites. It represents a unique opportunity to address the need for additional showpeople accommodation."

Last month, it was revealed that there are plans to find 27 new pitches for travellers and gipsies in the Black Country in the next four years with more than half of them – 15 – to be located in the Walsall borough.

## THANKS AS CENTRE TAKES LEAD IN DOG SHOW CRISIS



Lucy Clifford, from Darlaston, with Bella and Lottie at the dog show which had to relocate at the 11th hour

DOG show organisers have thanked staff at a Staffordshire visitors centre for hosting their event – after an illegal travellers camp in Walsall threatened to derail the whole thing.

Greyhound Gap held its biggest event of the year on Sunday with 200 dogs and their owners attending. But organisers had to switch the venue to Staffordshire just hours before its opening after travellers set up camp at Walsall Arboretum. They managed to find a new venue at Marquis Drive Visitor Centre on Cannock Chase.

Charity founder Lisa Cartwright said: "This is such an important event to us. It is just one

of those things with the travellers. I think Walsall Council have been absolutely fantastic. They did offer us an alternative pitch but unfortunately we were unsure whether the travellers had moved on by then or not. We had an offer to move to Cannock Chase. I can't thank the visitor centre enough."

The charity runs the dog show twice a year to raise funds for its work.

Greyhound Gap rescues, rehabilitates and rehomes greyhounds and lurchers with the charity paying to bring the animals back to health before finding them new homes. For more details, visit [www.greyhoundgap.org.uk](http://www.greyhoundgap.org.uk)



Best black dog Nero, with owner Steve Tucke

### COUNCIL

## Travelodge plan set for green light

A £9 MILLION regeneration project to build a Travelodge and a McDonalds drive-thru in Walsall town centre was this week set to be approved by council bosses.

The scheme, which also includes two other properties touted as either cafes, restaurants, pubs or takeaways, has been recommended for approval by development officers on Walsall Council with the planning committee poised to decide on the proposal during a meeting later today, Thursday.

Developer Cordwell Property Group has earmarked land on Wisemore opposite Tesco Extra stating dozens of jobs will be created by the scheme, including 65 workers at McDonalds and 12 at Travelodge.

Transport surveys estimate around 100 extra vehicle movements to the area during the morning rush hour of 8am to 9am and as many as 175 between the peak period of 5pm to 6pm.

A total of 54 car parking spaces have been proposed with a mix of long stay for the hotel users and short stay for other visitors.

### TRAGEDY

## Crossing where girl died closed

THE rail foot crossing where a schoolgirl was killed by a train has been fenced off to stop anyone else from accessing the tracks – as floral tributes were laid near the scene of her death.

Large metal fencing has been put up across the entrance to the crossing, off Wallows Lane in Walsall, near the Banks's Stadium. The yellow gate, which previously allowed pedestrians to cross the tracks, has also been chained shut.

Network Rail workers were on the scene to make safety changes a day after the 14-year-old's tragic death last Tuesday, which is believed to have been an accident.

The company took immediate action over fears other people might try to get across the tracks. Network Rail said the crossing will be closed for at least 21 days.

### INSIDE

## DOREEN ON THE CASE WITH DVD



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# Mayor's rallying call for West Midlands



'Success' – Andy Street

ANDY Street was spreading the 'success story' of the West Midlands to the Tory Conference, declaring: "This is our time to shine."

The West Midlands Mayor was pushing the region's claims as a model for the rest of the UK. He also said the time had come for the West Midlands to look beyond the UK and Europe and bring in investment from across the globe, using Wolverhampton's JLR plant as an example. Mr Street said the region had 'outperformed' other areas of the country – including conference host city

Manchester – and insisted his focus was on competing on a global stage in the post-Brexit world.

The Mayor proclaimed the West Midlands was ready to become a beacon of economic growth, adding: "The message I want to get across today at the conference is that this is our time to shine."

"The West Midlands is poised to deliver, not just for its own citizens, but for the country as well. I want to make it very clear to the Government that we will deliver. They still control some of the investment that we need, so I want

the West Midlands to be first and foremost in their minds."

The Conservative Mayor, insisted the region needed to 'look beyond the UK' and 'play on the bigger stage'.

"We have got to think about our international competitors," he said. "If you take Jaguar Land Rover, for them it is actually a choice between the West Midlands and international destinations."

"We have to be clear that if we just play a kind of small scale game where we are competing only with regions in the UK, we are going to fall behind."

# Manhunt launched after cyclist is shot in the leg

**A MAN was shot in the leg whilst riding his bike sparking a police hunt for the fleeing gunman.**

Residents told how they heard two loud shots before shouts and screams rang out in Burrowes Street, Birchills, late on Sunday night.

A 43-year-old man suffered wounds to his leg and was taken to hospital but his injuries were not thought to be life-threatening. Armed police and sniffer dogs swooped on the scene between Tibbits House and Green Lane Methodist Church shortly after 11pm to begin the search for the shooter who had ran off.

One woman, from Richards House flat block overlooking the street, said: "I heard two gunshots, then I heard a man shout 'I have been shot in the leg, I have been shot in the leg'. The next thing I saw was police and sniffer dogs in the area. By the time I looked over the balcony the ambulance was here as well."

**Screaming**

"I was shocked and surprised really. I have not been living here long."

Another resident, who did not wish to be named, claimed they spoke to a man who went to the victim's aid immediately after.

She said: "I heard a gunshot from my window. Then there was a lot of screaming and shouting. As soon as I heard it I said 'that was a gunshot'. I spoke to a man who tended to him and called the ambulance."

"He ran inside Tibbits House. All I know he was riding his bike, I think he was going to meet his girlfriend or something, then someone shot at him."

"It's frightening. I have lived here for years and nothing like that has ever happened around here in all my days."

"I could not sleep last night."

A spokeswoman from West Midlands Police said: "Armed officers were sent to Burrowes Street in Walsall just after 11pm on Sunday, October 1, following reports of a man being shot at while riding his bike. It's believed the offender ran from the scene."

# Unlocking sculpture's big move



The five locks sculpture has been moved to the prominent Keyway roundabout in Willenhall

It is a striking symbol of the town's lock-making heritage that has been hidden away from the general public for years. But now this eye-catching sculpture has been relocated to a prominent roundabout in Willenhall for all to see. The stainless steel structure, which depicts five levers of a lock mechanism, has been moved on to the Keyway island. It was previously

located within Assa Abloy's site on Cannock Road, Wednesfield, as part of Wolverhampton council's art policy.

But the company announced it wanted to move the sculpture on to the roundabout in the wake of its decision to move out of the Wednesfield base. The lock levers now stand proudly near to Assa Abloy's other major site at School Street,

Willenhall. Walsall Council, which has planning jurisdiction over the Keyway roundabout, granted permission for the move earlier this year. As part of the agreement, Assa Abloy also vowed to provide maintenance work for the war memorial at Somerfield Place nearby, which honours the soldiers from Portobello who served in the First World War.

# Linking back to chain of past events at concert

SHE was the Scottish woman who, in 1910 after a bitter 10-week strike, won the battle for the Cradley chainshop girls to receive a minimum wage.

He is a Cradley singer-songwriter who was so inspired by this remarkable Black Country story that he set it to music.

Now Derry Jones will be singing the song he wrote in honour of the political activist and tireless campaigner for the rights of working women – Mary Macarthur – and her struggle for 'a decent working wage' at a charity concert in Walsall on Saturday.

Organiser, Christine Gregory said: "Derry is one of a dozen performers brought together for this concert by Billy Spakemon of Black Country Radio. "There will be songs and music, poetry, comedy sketches and story-telling, all celebrating the proud heritage, customs and traditions of the Black Country. All in all, a proper bostin' night out."

The concert will be held at Central Hall, Walsall, starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £6 per person are available by phoning 01922 721643.

All proceeds will go towards supporting the charity's work in the local community such as a tots playgroup and an advice centre to help people facing financial hardship.

# Punter strikes it lucky at casino

A WALSALL casino customer struck it lucky on the slots – scooping the £10,000 jackpot on two separate machines. The punter, known as Mr K, collected £20,000 in two hours at Grosvenor Casino.

General manager Adam Evans said: "We're thrilled to have a jackpot winner. We have heard news of many other Grosvenor Casino customers winning the jackpot all around the country and it's great to be part of the good news with a winner of our own."

A recent change in legislation means the jackpot prizes increased from £4,000 to £10,000 for a maximum £5 stake. Also allowed under the new rules is a progressive linked jackpot for machines within the same premises to a maximum of £20,000.

# Prince tribute at city's racetrack

THERE will be live music from The Prince Experience – Buzz D'Angelo at Wolverhampton Racecourse. The venue is also offering half price grandstand admission for students on October 7. Gates open at 4pm with the first race at 6pm. The event runs until midnight.

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# Good year for M6 Toll ahead of takeover

THE M6 Toll continued to whittle away at its losses in the months running up to its takeover by Australian group IFM Investors, new figures reveal.

Despite fears that a lack of major roadworks on the M6 would hit its figures, the M6 Toll actually increased traffic numbers to 17.5 million vehicles in 2016.

Operators Midland Expressway described it as "an excellent performance" as it had been expecting numbers to fall because of the end of the southbound roadworks that had driven a surge in traffic to the toll road the previous year.

Instead income from tolls amounted to just over £80 million, which represented a £500,000 increase on the previous year.

In its financial report for 2016, just filed at Companies House, Midland Expressway said its performance had been buoyed by the growth in the economy and continued thanks to relatively low fuel prices.

Looking ahead, Midland Expressway said it expected 'strong growth' this year due to roadworks on both the M6 and M5.

This summer the 27-mile motorway was bought by Australian-based IFM Investors, a pension fund-owned investment manager that said the UK's only pay-as-you-go motorway could provide "stable and secure returns".

## College offering a uni alternative

SCHOOL leavers and other youngsters undecided about what to do next are being reminded that it's not too late to enrol at City of Wolverhampton College.

The college still has a few places left on a range of courses, including A-Levels, engineering, construction, sport, hair and beauty, creative arts, health, early years and travel. For those who have just completed A Levels the college offers a wide range of higher education courses as an affordable alternative to university.

And for youngsters who want to go straight into work, the college's apprenticeship programme is a great way of getting into paid employment.

For more information ring 01902 836000 or visit [www.wolvcoll.ac.uk](http://www.wolvcoll.ac.uk)

## Fair for charity

AN autumn fair takes place on Saturday raising money for the Children's Society. Toys, books and cakes are on sale at All Saints Church Hall, Sedgely, from 11am to 2pm. Entry is free with refreshments available.

# Bikers tie the knot in pagan wedding



Rebecca and Gary Cleary at their wedding

THIS is the heart-warming moment a motorbike-mad couple 'jumped the broom' during their special pagan wedding.

Rebecca and Gary Cleary from Hedenesford tied the knot in unique style surrounded by dozens of family and friends in their home. Rebecca described their big day as a 'special occasion surrounded by all those we love'.

The newly-wed couple, aged 55 and 57, met through their love of motorbikes, as each own a Harley Davidson.

They opted for an alternative style wedding, which saw 150 people attend

the ceremony in a white tent in their back garden.

Rebecca, who works with special needs children, said: "It was a really happy and special day surrounded by all our special family and friends that mean something to us."

They performed the 'jumping the broom' as part of traditional pagan wedding proceedings while guests threw confetti at them.

The ceremony also saw the couple tie their hands together, in an activity known as hand-fasting, while they exchanged vows and received blessings.

An African song was played inside the tent as Rebecca wanted African aspects to her wedding because the continent is close to her heart.

She said: "Back in the 70s I went back-packing around the world. It was a very happy part of my life.

"I went to the rainforest in Cameroon where I worked with chimpanzees and gorillas."

The couple met four years ago through friends while motorbiking.

They are both part of a Cannock-based motorcycle club called Roadrunners MCC.

# Secondary school for 1,100 pupils to be built

**A NEW secondary school for more than 1,100 pupils will open next year.**

The Department for Education has approved a proposal for The Blakenall School to go ahead with the first pupils set to be welcomed into its classrooms from September 2018.

The free school, which will be run by the Windsor Academy Trust, will initially take in 180 new Year 7 students but will be able to cater for 1,150 in total including a sixth form for 250 pupils.

Keith Sorrell, chief executive of the Windsor Academy Trust said: "We are absolutely delighted that Blakenall Free School has been approved.

"It is our aim for Blakenall Free School to provide a world class education serving young people aged 11-18 from the Blakenall community."

### Primary

The trust already runs two secondary schools in Kingswinford and Halesowen, both of which are currently rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

While the organisation has five primary schools in the Walsall and Dudley boroughs.

The Blakenall School will predominantly serve two of those; Rivers Primary Academy on Mersey Road which has around 190 pupils, and Goldsmith Primary Academy on Goldsmith Road which has around 330 students.

Trust bosses have previously said pupils will wear a uniform while those in the sixth form will be asked to adhere to a smart dress code.

Walsall Council member for Blakenall Ian Robertson welcomed the new school stating that it would be needed with more than 700 new homes on the horizon.

Councillor Robertson said: "I am very much in favour of better access to education nearer to the pupils that actually need it.

"Free schools seem to be the only show in town so if that's the only way we can deliver it then it has to be welcomed."

A specific site has yet to be indicated by the trust.

## Tift's top talents are recognised



Artist Andrew Tift, whose artistic expertise has helped to him in the top 100 of creative talent in the region

ARTIST Andrew Tift, who hails from Great Wyrley, has been named in a list of 100 Masters highlighting the breadth of creative talent in the region.

Creative Black Country, which set out to identify the 100 Masters, has begun to release the names of those who made the list.

In recent months members of the public have been nominating people they know who are 'brilliant at what they do'.

And figurative realist portrait

painter Andrew Tift has now been named as one of those on the list.

Mr Tift went from Great Wyrley High School to Stafford College of Art to do a foundation course in art and drawing, and then to Birmingham Art College, and a BA Hons and MA with distinction in illustration.

He has amassed a wealth of impressive awards for his stunning works including the prestigious BP Portrait Award.

Recognised as one of the leading

portrait painters of his generation he has had solo shows in UK and USA and has been collected by National Portrait Gallery, Westminster Palace, House of Commons and House of Lords and The Smithsonian Institute.

He has a major solo, homecoming exhibition planned in summer 2018 at the New Art Gallery Walsall.

Last year he spoke up in defence of the art gallery after its future seemed in doubt.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ramblers getting their boots ready

IT'A another busy weekend for the Walsall Group of the Ramblers with the first event of its winter programme of short walks on Saturday. Leasowes, near Halesowen, is the destination – four miles – with the meeting point is the car park at Oak Park C. P. (Lichfield Road) at 9.30am. Call the walk leader on 01922 413309.

Then on Sunday, they are heading to Bromyard for a nine-mile circular walk, in the open north of the town in Herefordshire. More information is available from the walk leaders on 01922 691167

For details on the group, log on at [www.walsallramblers.org.uk](http://www.walsallramblers.org.uk).

### Farm shop pies on sale at firm

A FARM shop offering pies and delicacies has opened at a Willenhall factory.

iDeli has been launched by Midland Chilled Foods at its Stringes Lane site, in Willenhall, creating three jobs.

The 41-year-old firm, which makes award-winning pies, faggots and cured meats, is now selling them direct to the public for the first time.

General manager Michael Lynch said: "We have been operating at this site for 38 years and this is the first time we have opened our gates to the public." The shop was opened by Walsall North MP Eddie Hughes.

### Crews called as sheds set alight

ARSONISTS struck in countryside outside Wolverhampton, burning down three outdoor buildings.

A fire crew from Tettenhall was called to the blaze, involving the wooden sheds, at Perton Court Cottage off Pattingham Road, Wightwick, at 6.10pm last Wednesday.

Crews used cutting tools to get to the fire. It was put out at 7.20pm and the crew left the scene 20 minutes later. The cause was deliberate. The fire burnt out two sheds completely and inflicted 70 per cent damage on the third.

### Profit up to £6m for family lockmakers

OLDBURY-BASED locking systems manufacturer Lowe & Fletcher has reported a rise in both revenue and profits for 2016.

The family-owned company, founded in 1889, saw revenue rise from £68.2 million to £74.3 million and pre-tax profits from £4.2 million to £6 million.

Lowe and Fletcher, which also has bases in Wednesbury and Shifnal, is made up of two divisions.



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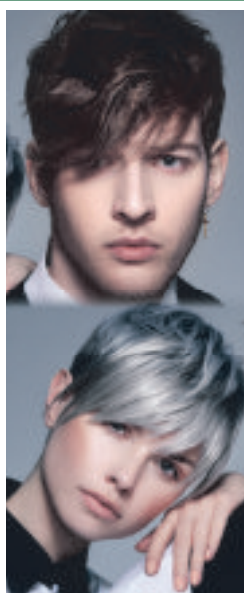
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COUNTY NEWS

## No joke for Jim on murder claim

AUSSIE comic Jim Jefferies brought his hit TV show to the streets of Birmingham, which he told his American audience was the murder capital of the UK. The film sees him with officers from West Midlands Police.

He joined Insp Matt Minton and Sgt Leanne Chapman and the film sees the pair stop and detain suspected criminals. Jefferies has been vocal in his criticism of US gun control.

He said Birmingham was the ‘murder capital of the UK’ with 13 homicides in 2016. His film compares it with Birmingham, Alabama, with a quarter of the population but eight times more – 104 murders in 2016.

## Students are put on right towpath

ENGINEERING students kicked off the new term by sprucing up a canal towpath.

The students from City of Wolverhampton College, who are studying for level two and three diplomas in mechanical engineering, helped improve the Lichfield and Hatherton Canal.

They spread hardcore along a half-mile stretch of the path, as part of an ongoing restoration scheme, as well as visiting the canal aqueduct crossing the M6 Toll road.

College bosses said the project was organised to show students the types of work involved in civil engineering projects, as well as develop team work.

## Bears to go as auction begins

THE decorated bears from this summer’s Big Sleuth art trail in Birmingham and the Black Country are being sold at auction. Fieldings Auctioneers in Stourbridge is hosting the sale on October 12. It will raise funds for Birmingham Children’s Hospital.

The project’s predecessor The Big Hoot, raised £500,000 for Birmingham Children’s Hospital in 2015 and The Big Sleuth is aiming to beat that.

Bidding for each bear is expected to start in the region of £6,000.

## Firm’s sales bounce back after move

A FIRM specialising in rubber products and polymer sheeting has increased sales by seven per cent.

MacLellan Rubber moved from Neachells Lane, Wednesfield, to Planetary Road Industrial Estate in Wilenhall last year. The 146-year-old business had been at the Wednesfield site for 12 years. Director Andrew Onions said: “I’m delighted that our performance has bucked the trend.”

# E-cigarettes mugger has jail term cut

A MUGGER who was nabbed after being identified via Facebook has had his jail term cut on appeal. Oliver Stanton, aged 21, attacked shopkeeper Stephen Roberts in a Willenhall street with a knuckleduster in January, making off with goods worth £200.

Stanton, formerly of Hampstead Road, Birmingham, had covered his features with a hooded top and a scarf.

He approached his victim as he transported boxes of e-cigarettes from his shop into a vehicle. But, during a struggle before he ran off with one of the boxes, Stanton’s face was revealed. The victim’s quick-thinking daughter then launched a Facebook appeal, which led to Stanton being identified as the robber.

He was jailed for six years at Wolverhampton Crown Court in Febru-

ary, after pleading guilty to robbery and possession of an offensive weapon.

But at London’s Appeal Court, Mr Justice William Davis ruled that was too tough and cut Stanton’s sentence to five years.

The judge, sitting with Mr Justice Green and Lord Justice Lloyd Jones, said Stanton punched his victim with ‘full force’ on both sides of his face. He told Mr Roberts, ‘I’m having that box’

before making off with his loot. But, fortunately, the shopkeeper suffered no more serious injury than bruising.

Stanton’s lawyers argued that Mr Roberts had not suffered ‘severe psychological harm’. Mr Justice Davis, allowing the appeal, said: “This was a planned robbery – he armed himself and used a weapon. But the judge fell into error in finding that severe psychological harm had been caused.”

# Rescue dogs jump for joy thanks to play boost

By Charlotte Callear

**A MAN has created made a dog playground at a rundown rescue centre in his free time with his own money.**

Paul McCabe, aged 54, first visited Rosedene Rescue Centre in Walsall when he was donating his dogs supplies to them who had recently died.

It is entirely run by volunteers and has around 32 unwanted dogs who they try to find homes for.

The Wednesbury man is a property developer and was heartbroken when he saw how rundown it was.

During the summer, plenty of dog walkers volunteer to help them get some exercise but in the winter the numbers of volunteers falls so they wanted to make a place for the dogs to be able to run around.

He said: “It is a heartbreaking place to go, it is really run down.

“When I went there it tugged at my heart-strings.

“My black Labrador was called Bella and when she died after I had her for 16 years, I donated her bed and toys to them.

### Imagine

“When I was there, the woman said we could use someone like you and I promised to go back and get something done for them.

“Naturally in dark winter nights, people don’t want to walk dogs around so they are left in small cell-like conditions and it is painful to see. Can you imagine being locked in all day?”

The space is big enough for several dogs to run around in with a tyre for them to play in along with a little structure to run across.

A volunteer at the rescue centre, Abbie Waller, aged 22, of Burntwood, said: “They can now have a run a run around off their leads and they use it everyday. They love it, they get to be like dogs now.

“We’re so thankful to them because they paid for it out of their own pocket and supplied their own materials. We took them out to a meal to say thank you, they are really nice people.”



No chance of getting tyre-d of this at the centre



Putting this dog through its paces with a ramp

## Learn to dance with star ultra-fast

STRICTLY Come Dancing star Robin Windsor has backed a new ballroom dance event raising money for a cancer charity.

Ultra Ballroom allows people to learn to ballroom dance with eight weeks free professional training while raising money for Cancer Research UK.

After two months of training, participants will then get the

chance to perform at a swanky black-tie event.

The first ever Ultra Ballroom event in Birmingham is set to take place at Edgbaston Cricket Ground on November 19.

Professional dancer Robin said: “Ultra Ballroom is a great way for people to learn a new skill while raising money for such a worthy cause.

“I’m so passionate about dancing and I hope lots of people sign up and get to experience the magic of ballroom dancing.

“I’d like to wish all the participants good luck as they support Cancer Research UK in their quest to beat cancer sooner.”

For further details of initiative log on at the website ultra-ballroom.co.uk

# Head makes parking plea after pupil is hit by car

A HEADTEACHER has urged parents to park more safely after a pupil was hit by a car outside a school.

Lynsey Draycott, of Barr Beacon School, condemned parents for parking irresponsibly on pavements, double yellow lines or at junctions.

It follows an incident involving a Year 8 student where dangerous parking contributed to the accident outside the secondary school in Old Hall Lane, Aldridge.

In a letter to parents, Ms Draycott says: “Despite repeated requests asking parents not to park dangerously on pavements, double yellow lines or on a junction of local roads, this has continued. Already, one of our pupils has been hit by a car outside the school gates, on a road which has double yellow lines.

“A local resident who witnessed the parking has asked the school if it requires a fatality before parents park using common sense. Cars have been observed reversing back down Old Hall Lane.

“Parents who park on Beacon Road, opposite the school, are expecting their child to cross a very busy, main road rather than walking the pedestrian traffic lights.

“On behalf of the life of every single child at Barr Beacon School, we are asking parents to please park sensibly.

“We have asked both police and local parking enforcement officer to regularly visit the area during the mornings, at the end of the day and school functions.

“However, no headteacher wants to write to parents about a fatal accident involving one of their children.”

## Assa Abloy sees profits dip £3m

PROFITS for the Willenhall-based UK operation of Swedish door and window lock manufacturer Assa Abloy fell last year.

Newly filed figures for 2016 show pre-tax profit was down from £16.1 million in 2015 to £13.9m after it was hit by exceptional operating costs of more than £10m, including £2.7m for restructuring. Revenue for Assa Abloy rose from £169.5m to £177.9m

Assa Abloy directors said in the report that they were satisfied with the performance and that the UK referendum decision to exit the EU continues to bring challenges, not least around the management of foreign exchange risks and increasing raw materials prices. Assa Abloy bought Stockport-based Prima Doors and Trojan Holdings last year.

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# Security at baths won't be reviewed after stunt

SECURITY measures at Walsall's Gala Baths will not be stepped up despite an incident in which a man jumped off the top diving board while riding his BMX.

More than half a million people have logged onto YouTube to view the stunt by Ryan Taylor which took place earlier this month.

It was the latest 'In and out' challenge performed by the professional rider which generally involve him riding his bike into public places before being thrown out.

But his actions, which were completed at the second attempt when his first was foiled by an off-duty police officer, also prompted outrage after the pool had to be evacuated twice as the alarm sounded.

The council has dismissed the incident as 'isolated' and ruled out making any changes to access at the baths.

Councillor Ian Shires, portfolio holder for community, leisure and culture, said:

"This was clearly an isolated incident, and is reminiscent of the 'social media celebrity age' in which we now live."

Mr Taylor defended his actions, which were widely condemned. He said he checked to ensure the pool was clear before he jumped and that the stunt was simply him attempting to show off his BMX skills in a new environment.

# MP praises work of physio clinic

AN MP has praised the work of a new physiotherapy clinic that she says is at the forefront of rehabilitation training.

Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz opened the new Back2Fitness Physiotherapy clinic on Wolverhampton Road West in the town.

She said the clinic would allow more people in Walsall to receive quality care and added: "Musculoskeletal conditions have an enormous impact on the quality of life of millions of people in the UK.

"The new clinic offers comprehensive assessments and effective treatments tailored to individual injuries, including back and neck pain, sciatica, arthritis, sports injuries, repetitive strain and post-surgical rehab."

# Beowulf's boost

OPEN days held to mark Brownhills brewery Beowulf's 20th anniversary raised £363 for Birmingham Dogs Home. The brewery at Chasewater Country Park, celebrated with a range of its real ales on sale.

# Artist's pledge to thief over painting



David Burbidge, with a copy of the art

A DISABLED grandfather has been left 'gutted' after a thief stole a painting he had slaved over for half a year – but he has offered to give the culprit a print if it is returned safely.

David Burbidge, from Willenhall, had gone to painstaking detail crafting the self-portrait which he had used as part of his degree in fine art at the University of Wolverhampton in 2015.

But while he was on holiday earlier this year a thief broke into the camper van on his drive at Stretton Road and stole the 3ft tall canvas.

Mr Burbidge, a father of six and grandfather to three, said: "I was gutted when I found out. It had taken me about six months, it was very detailed. It took me a long time I put a lot into it. I just want it back. I can redo it but I can't do it exactly as it was before."

Mr Burbidge had gone away to Skegness in July with his parents and it was his wife who called him just as he was heading back to break the news that the painting was gone. It is thought the thief targeted the camper van between the night of Friday, July

21 and the early hours of the following morning.

A knitting machine was also taken but Mr Burbidge is more concerned about the painting and has even vowed to take no further action in the unlikely event the guilty party comes forward.

He added: "I just want it back. I don't mind doing a print of it for whoever has it, I just want the original back. I won't press charges."

Mr Burbidge said anyone who has information about the painting could call him on 07542 795967.

# Tributes paid to 'one in a million' crash victim

**A WIFE has spoken of her heartbreak after the driver who caused the death of her 'one in a million' husband was jailed.**

Motorcyclist Lee Marlow, aged 34, was fatally injured in a crash with Miles Byrne – as he went to tell relatives his wife Rebecca had escaped injury following a smash she was in earlier that day.

Former soldier Byrne, 39, was jailed for three-and-a-half years and banned for driving for three years in the wake of the crash on September 17 last year in Pelsall.

The delivery driver, of Medway, Tamworth, originally denied causing death by dangerous driving but changed his plea to guilty on the day he was due to stand trial. Lee had three children, Elliott, 17, 13-year-old Lewis and Darcey, 10, with wife Rebecca. She said: "We never thought this would happen to our perfect loving family.

## Plates

"We go to bed still thinking he is going to come back from work and at meal times I still get the five plates out instead of four."

The couple, who married in Turkey in 2015, both worked at a nursing home.

Lee was a maintenance man and Rebecca, 40, a care assistant.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told how Lee was riding his motorbike in a safe manner at the junction of Norton Lane and Vicarage Road when Byrne turned right across his path.

They collided and Lee suffered catastrophic head and chest injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Rebecca described Lee as a 'family man' who loved going fishing with Elliott, and watching Lewis play football.

She added: "Lee was truly one in a million and would do anything for anyone."

## Danni's half the woman she was



Danni Richardson, seen left, when she topped the scales at over 20 stone, and right, after her weight loss

SUPER slimmer Danni Richardson is almost half the woman she used to be. She has dropped 20 dress sizes after losing a life-changing seven and half stone.

Danni, aged 32, has slimmed down from more than 20 stone and has now been named Willenhall's Slimming World 'Woman of the Year' 2017.

She said: "When I started out I never dreamt I'd be able to achieve all that I have.

Losing the weight has made

such a big difference – it's changed my life. My health is better, I have more energy and I'm much happier now. I definitely feel more comfortable in my own skin."

She joined the slimming club in September 2015 after becoming increasingly unhappy with her size.

But now she can still eat similar meals to before, only prepared differently.

She explained: "I still eat many of the same meals that I did before I started losing weight, like

spaghetti bolognese, curries and roast dinners. Now I just prepare and cook them differently – and they taste so much better."

Danni lost 5lbs in her first week and was blown away that the changes she'd made had such a big impact so quickly.

As the weight started to come off, her fitness improved and Danni now loves running around chasing after her three children effortlessly without struggling to keep up or just watch them playing instead

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Taxi drivers fall foul of authority

A TAXI driver has had his licence suspended while three others have received formal cautions. It comes after Walsall Council's taxi sub-licensing sub-committee reviewed allegations surrounding seven drivers.

The cases included failing to supply a breath specimen, failing to report information on DBS, failing to notify of convictions, and being disqualified from driving with no insurance.

The council confirmed no further action had been taken in relation to one of the drivers, while two of the cases had been deferred. Of the three drivers cautioned two will be required to take a driver training course.

## Judas Priest to headline festival

JUDAS Priest have been announced as headliners for the UK's biggest independent metal festival next year. The iconic Brum band, fronted by Walsall-born Rob Halford, will play Bloodstock Open Air Festival in August.

The heavy metal legends, formed in Birmingham in 1969, are known for tracks including Breakin' The Law, You've Got Another Thing Comin' and Living After Midnight.

The group will play the Catton Park festival in Derbyshire on August 10 next year.

## Controlled blast as mortar found

BOMB disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion on a suspected mortar found on a building site.

The explosive device was unearthed during digging on the site on the A5190 Milestone Way, in Chasetown, on Thursday. Witnesses told of a robot being brought in to dispose of it.

A housing development is under construction on the land opposite Morrisons supermarket, which used to be ES Smith, a firm which recovered war weapons. Other unexploded devices have been found in recent years bringing construction to a halt.

## Get homemade cakes and plants at church

HOMEMADE cakes and plants will be on sale at a coffee morning today, Thursday, at Green Lane Baptist Church, in Burrows Street, Walsall, from 10.30am to noon.

The event is organised by retired minister and ex-missionary the Rev Fred Stainthorpe. The proceeds will be donated to The Bible Society, which has projects in more than 200 nations.

More details about the event are on [www.biblesociety.org.uk](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk)

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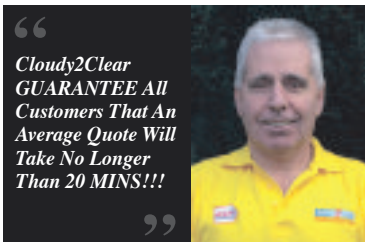
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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Phones OK surely if you are not mobile

DESPITE stiff new penalties, more than 16 million motorists admit to still using their mobile phones while driving, according to shock new figures from the RAC.

Well that's not strictly true. Delving a little deeper, the figure actually includes seven million who only use their phones while their cars are stationary.

The RAC says it is immaterial whether the car is moving or stood still in traffic. But it does make a difference, doesn't it? Because you can't hurt anyone if you are not moving.

And given the authorities' fondness for digging up roads and shutting motorways, is it really surprising some will text their work to say traffic is at a standstill?

There is no excuse for using a handheld mobile phone while driving but the law should show a bit of common sense when it comes to people in stationary vehicles. And many will still risk a £200 fine if the alternative is an angry boss wanting to know why they didn't tell them they would be late.

□□□

TWITTER is thinking of doubling the number of characters people can use in their messages. Which means if trials are successful, trolls will have a whole 280 characters to spew their venom. And Donald Trump will be able to rile twice as many megalomaniacs into nuclear war. What's not to like?

□□□

TALKING of internet trolls, new research shows 87 per cent of MPs suffered some sort of abuse in the run-up to the last election. It's tempting to say this is not nearly enough, but some of the stories suggest this goes way beyond the harmless heckling of a vibrant democracy.

Labour's Diane Abbott seems to have suffered most, experiencing racist and sexist abuse nobody should endure.

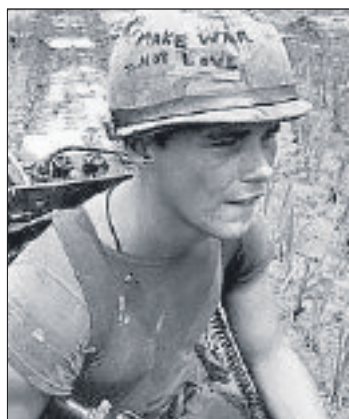
I've never understood why people get so het up about politics, it's a bit like brawling over which brand of margarine tastes best. But some people can no longer discuss economics or immigration without the sort of tribalism traditionally reserved for Millwall away games.

Perhaps Miss Abbott should have a word with Laura Pidcock, the 29-year-old Corbynite MP who described her political opponents as "the enemy", and said she would never be friends with a Conservative. Hopefully one day she will realise that disagreeing with someone is no reason to hate them. MPs can hardly expect people to be nice to them when they can't be nice to each other.

## Pros and cons of life with technology and capitalism



Corbyn's nationalisation plans. Should they include insurance companies?



The Vietnam War, remembered in a 10-part series on BBC4, recommended by Rhodes



Sian Gibson in Car Share, who kept using a grandfather's funeral to get a day off work

# Droning on about insurance rip-offs

SCIENTISTS report this has been a bad year for butterflies. Which we all understand means a shortage of butterflies. "A bad year for wasps" has an entirely different meaning.

RESEARCH at Nottingham University suggests the winter-flu jab is more effective if you're in a happy frame of mind when you get it. This may reinforce your belief in the awesome power of the mind over body. On the other hand, you may take the view that a vaccine whose efficacy depends on how happy you feel must be a pretty feeble sort of vaccine.

AS you may be aware, I am no great fan of drones, those irritating mini-aircraft that snoop over our gardens on summery, sunbathing days. But the drone seems to have transformed the long-running war between police and those scumbags of the countryside, hare coursers. With a drone in the air, the cops can detect this sadistic activity, identify the vehicles involved and direct patrol cars to nick them. In a recent incident in Norfolk, a police drone traced four men; they were questioned and their 4x4 vehicle was seized. Coursers aim to terrorise and kill the innocent and beautiful brown hare. How fitting that, from the moment they hear the drone above them, they now know they are the prey, the predator has them in its sights and there is no escape. Poetic justice.

OH, Jeremy Corbyn. What is this eagerness to nationalise gas, water, electricity and the railways when the real scoundrel, the biggest, nastiest example of the unacceptable face of cap-

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



italism, grows fatter by the day? It comprises dozens of companies selling virtually identical products, ripping us off with yearly price hikes way in excess of inflation, treating loyal customers like suckers and luring us on with massive advertising campaigns which we, naturally, pay for. I refer to the British insurance industry. The sooner it is nationalised and run by the people for the people, the better. You can understand the wicked Tories regarding the industry as untouchable but surely Labour has a view?

THE Vietnam War (BBC4) is a masterful 10-part series on a conflict unlike any other. It was so vivid, so violent and so endlessly filmed that it became part of our culture throughout the 1960s. Every evening's news brought more frightful images as we became familiar with places like Da Nang and Khe Sanh. And then, quite suddenly in 1975, it was all over and no-one, least of all the Americans, wanted to talk about it. Vietnam became the let-it-be-forgotten war. In 1992 I was on a press trip to Saigon. For us older hacks it was a city that, thanks to all the TV coverage, we half-knew. See? Here's the US embassy and over there's the presidential palace where NVA tanks smashed down the gates in the closing minutes of the war. But for the younger journalists it was just a holiday destina-

tion, a warm, friendly place with cheap taxis and great food. Re-visiting the war is long overdue, if only because it gives us a sharp lesson in how the best of intentions can lead you to fight the wrong enemy and drop blazing napalm on children in the name of democracy.

I HAVE tiny, lingering doubts about the claim that Britain is in for a series of major storms between now and Christmas. The forecasting companies may well be proved right. However, they are apparently using data from as far back as 1940 to predict what may be coming. Looking for patterns in the weather? Why do I keep thinking of roulette wheels?

IN a world riddled with internet scams, a good grasp of English remains our best defence. This, from yet another fake BT email: "This restriction will be disabled immediately we confirm upgrade successful." Make a note of this one. Intermediately.

A TEACHER in Kent resigned after being accused of inventing a sick partner in order to get time off work. It makes you wonder how many ailing relatives, invoked for compassionate leave, actually exist. Does anyone check? I remember rightly, in Peter Kay's comedy Car Share, Kayleigh (Sian Gibson) admits having attended her granddad's funeral three times.

THANKS in no small part to you lot and your contributions, this column has been shortlisted in the 2017 Midland Media Awards. Well done, all.

## TALKING POINT



# At pains to accept age-old problem

A FEW years ago, as an Express & Star journalist approaching the 40th birthday milestone, I was asked to write a first-person article on the pros and cons of notching up my fifth decade on this planet.

It had the usual comic references to putting on weight, losing hair in some places and gaining it in others, ha, ha, very funny...

Okay, now move on 12 years, and what do we find? Another version of me, admittedly personal circumstances have changed, workplace roles altered, a new wife, and pain, everywhere.

One day, it would be nice, just for one day, I'm not asking much, to be completely devoid of pain!

The deterioration of the physical form as humans cross the half century threshold was not something anyone told me about.

As I sit here in discomfort, I have pain in my neck, back, left forearm, fingers of both hands, left knee, and right heel/lower leg. And that is before I try and stand up and get my weary body into motion to cross the room towards the kettle to make a cup of tea.

I am married to a lady who has a catalogue of symptoms, women do seem to get it much worse. I only have three prescription drugs to take every day, she has a drawer-full!

Shoes make all the difference to getting through the day too. Who on earth was around when I was 30-odd to warn me of such required considerations? If I go for the cool-looking flat American style black hi-top sneakers, I believe they are called - you know, like the ones Will Smith wears in I, Robot - within yards of walking I go through the Charles Darwin-inspired evolution of humans chart, only backwards. Starting off with the upright hominid, ending up with chimpanzee.

I arrive at whatever destination it might be a crumpled mess and no matter what I do, I yearn for a motorised scooter to take me back home again. Perhaps that is why we see so many of them around these days - poor choice of footwear!

It seems that home comforts are needed more and more as we get older. Apart from missing my slippers on a recent holiday, I found it almost impossible to get to sleep at night in a strange bed without my beloved pillow.

I can only assume that the pains that I feel will become more tolerable when I hit the big 6-0, as I will either have so many that only the big pains will be noticeable, or perhaps the Alzheimer's will mean that I am not aware of them at all.

GRAEME ANDREW

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# Divorce from EU shouldn't cost us a penny

ALDRIDGE Brownhills Conservative Association recently had a dinner for The Westminster Supper Club.

Our MP Wendy Morton gave a speech in which she welcomed the party's newest MP Eddie Hughes, MP for Walsall North. After an interesting speech he volunteered to take questions. My question was how much should we contribute to the EU for exiting the EU. His answer was unequivocal "not one penny", why should we have to fund their future programmes, they must fund their own. I congratulated him on his superb answer. For

my own part I totally agree with him. They are saying this is a divorce and requires a settlement of sums ranging from £50bn to £100bn. Well, in the first place we never married them, we joined a Common Market, we did pay a dowry, we had to surrender control of our territorial waters for example.

They wish for member countries to become member states governed by an unelected elite. We rightly wish to conduct our own affairs. We are having to submit legal affairs to the European Court despite the fact that Habitatus Corpus which we invented

is used by many other countries. This is proving to be a lawyer's position to extract thousands/millions of pounds. Then they introduced free movement of labour which is resisted by the installation of razor wire and their borders secured by armed guards in many of the mainland countries, thankfully we have the English Channel.

Given these circumstances we should get down to business in forming a trade deal together for our mutual interest.  
**COUNCILLOR JOHN ROCHELLE**  
Vice President, Aldridge Brownhills Conservative Association

## No justice for elderly crime victim

YET again we witness the futility of the law in this country with regard to the 'punitive punishment' handed out to someone who sank so low as to steal money from a frail elderly person. The apparent justification for this appalling act, was simply that "the thief concerned, had got herself into debt". Oh! That makes it ok then?

In the meantime, Chief Magistrate Dennis Gadsby stated, as in previous instances of this type, that "this was a huge breach of trust and we have to say that the crime obviously crossed the custody threshold".

Shouldn't this culprit and any other like her, therefore be made to do the same, or are the courts going to continue encouraging such behaviour by continually slapping the culprits wrists while wearing kid gloves?

**ALLAN KYTE**  
Campaigner for Better Care, Great Wyrley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

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## Wrong Rhodes to leaving super state

WHAT is the matter with Peter Rhodes?

In a recent column he says that we should not want to be part of a European super state.

So his solution is to leave the EU where we will have absolutely no say in what the EU does and where we will slowly but surely be swamped into insignificance.

I quote the words of an Italian commentator: "To be alone in 1940 among the enemy was heroic, to be alone in 2017 among friends is absurd."

Would Peter Rhodes suggest that Alaska or Hawaii would be better off and more important by leaving the USA?

**ROGER WATTS**  
Walsall

## Can we do this? Well, yes we did

I AM writing to say a very big thank you to people in Walsall for helping their local Crown Decorating Centre on Day Street to achieve record recycling results.

The figures for our annual Kick Out The Can unwanted paint recycling scheme are now in and we have achieved by far the best response ever. This is the fourth year we have run the campaign and each year the public has shown more and more support in returning containers of surplus paint to Crown Decorating Centres across the UK.

Over the four-week campaign, earlier this year, the final total amounted to an amazing 28,000 cans of unwanted paint being returned to stores compared to 20,000 in 2016. Sheds, cupboards and garages across the country are thought to hold around 54 million litres of unused paint.

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Crown Decorating Centres

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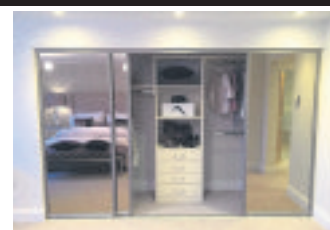
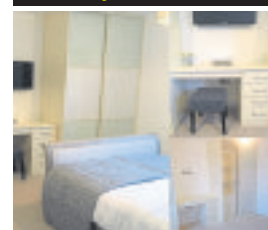


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# Knife threat visitor to chippie faces jail

**A DRUNK who brandished a knife after being refused chips and gravy at a takeaway faces six months in jail.**

Jacob Bateman was turned away from Butlers Balti in Darlaston because it was closing time, Wolverhampton Crown Court wastold.

Minutes after the rebuff he returned armed with a knife, revealed Miss Lisa Hancox, prosecuting. The 25-year-old warned the staff not to mess with him or he would stab them, continued the lawyer.

When the defendant briefly left the premises again, a member of staff blocked the door as police were alerted around 11pm on June 1. Miss Hancox explained: "He asked for the chips and gravy while the restaurant was in the process of closing and so his order was refused."

"He left the premises but returned 10 minutes later and placed the order again. He said he was not arguing and made mention of the fact he had a knife which he pulled from his waistband and started waving around while warning: 'Mess with me and I will give you this.' He went outside and this allowed the staff to close the door on him while he stood on the other side declaring: 'I can stab you right now.'"

Bateman also made racially offensive comments and was still standing outside the restaurant when police arrived. They disarmed and arrested him.

The defendant later told officers he had drunk four beers and half a bottle of vodka.

Bateman, from Brunel Walk, Darlaston, had four previous convictions involving eight separate offences which had all been committed since the start of last year. He admitted threatening behaviour while armed with a knife and racially aggravated abuse. Judge Anjad Nawaz adjourned sentencing until November 10 and explained: "The court should take any possible mental health frailties into account."

## Complex big names hope



**Poundland and B&M have now moved in to The Quarter in Walsall**

THE developer of a shopping complex says it is in talks with new retailers about taking up space in the remaining units.

The first phase of the project at The Quarter in Walsall has been completed with high street brands B&M and Poundland taking a combined 30 per cent of the 60,000 sq ft of space.

With two major retailers now moved in and open to the public, site developer St Modwen says it is

'progressing well' with its work to transform parts of Walsall.

Gregg Titley, development director at St Modwen, said: "Following months of work on the site, it's exciting to see the new shops open to the public, providing a vibrant shopping destination for local people and visitors to enjoy."

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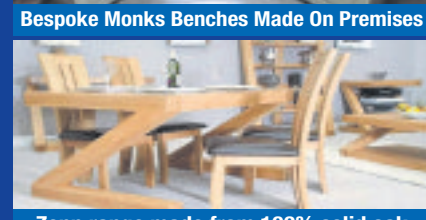
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## Disabled student tells of wheelchair woes



Rebecca Boot who was a speaker at the Labour Party Conference in Brighton last week

A STUDENT from Walsall made the headlines after show told the Labour Party conference of her daily struggle with an inadequate wheelchair.

Rebecca Boot has been forced to crowd fund for a safe wheelchair on the internet. She said: "A safe wheelchair which works properly should be a right, not a privilege".

She launched her crowd funding campaign after the chronic pain caused by long hours spent in the chair became unbearable. She is due to start a new term at Aston University, but fears that without the right wheelchair she faces a life of discomfort.

Rebecca has been waiting since May for an assessment and still does not have an appointment. "I'm still waiting to be assessed and the chronic underfunding of NHS is costing me my freedom," she said.

She needs £12,000 for a new wheelchair. Visit [www.go-fundme.com/rebecca-needs-a-safe-wheelchair](http://www.go-fundme.com/rebecca-needs-a-safe-wheelchair)

# Solicitor in gigs tickets con facing sentence

A SOLICITOR fleeced concert-goers out of their cash after selling fake tickets for gigs by acts such as Justin Beiber, Beyonce and Adele.

Zainab Pervaiz confessed she conned her victims into handing over money for the 'non-existent' tickets when she appeared at Birmingham Magistrates' Court.

Wearing a black coat, trousers and white shirt, the 25-year-old looked on as she admitted 16 counts of fraud on Wednesday.

Pervaiz, of Swan Pool Grove, Walsall, tricked customers into transferring cash for fake tickets reaching £150 into a PayPal account belonging to the grandfather of a friend.

## Defrauded

The fraudster would then move the funds into her bank account, leaving victims out of pocket when they requested a refund.

Her 'sophisticated' offending saw 16 victims defrauded of almost £10,000 in total, including her friend's grandfather who forked out about £7,200 to reimburse

By Annabal Bagdi

ripped-off customers who had transferred money into his PayPal account.

The man, whose trust was 'betrayed', had confronted Pervaiz about the scam before she apologised and claimed she would reimburse victims, the court was told.

Pervaiz was charged by postal requisition on September 12 for the offences, which took place between February 2015 and December 2016, West Midlands Police said.

The defendant, who had no previous convictions, was released on bail and is due to be sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court on October 25.

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Our centre has been completely refurbished both inside and out, to create an imaginative free flow environment from a large outdoor area with gardening section, an outdoor classroom and outdoor sensory area.

We have three rooms: Oak – messy play; Blossom – free play; and Willow – multi sensory. All of our rooms have a calm and homely feel to them that all of our children and visitors love.

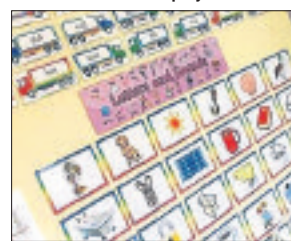
As well as being able to offer both paid and funded places for children aged two and up, we have weekly stay and play sessions where parents and their little ones can meet other parents and access our other services.

We offer support and advice on a wide range of services available to parents and families from both ourselves and other providers.

We have a close experienced team of qualified staff who go out of their way to create a unique learning experience for every child. In order to be as flexible as possible we have created several different sessions, including full days



The outside play area at the Little Saplings Childcare Centre



One of the educational aids in the centre / half days; three hour sessions; term time only places (ideal for parents who don't work or study during the school holidays); before and after school club



A little girl enjoys herself outside with pick up from local schools; holiday clubs; as well as hourly sessions ideal for parents who only need short term childcare.

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# Black Country queen out to solve eternal dilemma

Review  
Doreen's Black Country DVD  
By Diane Davies

**REGIONAL treasure and self-styled Queen of the Black Country Doreen Tipton is on a mission!**

Perhaps surprisingly, the Lazy Cow takes it upon herself to answer the eternal Black Country dilemma – where is the Black Country?

As she points out, no two Black Country folk will ever agree on where or what it is. So in her latest DVD, Doreen sets out on her Grand Tour to reveal her very own Black Country.

Told as only a true Black Country wench can, and with complete irreverence, heart-felt fondness and lashings of Black Country humour, Doreen offers her own unique take on its people, places and history.

## Butcher

Black Country characters making it onto the DVD include Colin the chatty 82-year-old underwear salesman at Brierley Hill market, fellow trader 'Bruce the Butcher of Brierley Hill' and dancing 73-year-old 'apprentice' Ken. There is Simon the canal man/Peaky Blinders actor in Dudley, Ade the Wing Chun expert at Priory Park Boxing Club, Walsall town crier Cyril Richardson and even the Express & Star's own archivist Adam Phillips.

Regularly waving the Black Country flag, the Grand Tour takes in The Nether Regions (!), Dud-lay; Walsall, Wul-vrampton and, of course, a homecoming at her beloved Tipton.

The gems of the Black Country to get a 'rare' visit include Dudley Castle and Zoo, Priory Park boxing club where we discover Doreen can pack a punch, The Dog House antiques shop



With a frisky tapir at Dudley Zoo



Doreen's Black Country DVD cover



Doreen interviews Tipton Terror and Wolves legend Steve Bull

in Walsall, Molineux, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Dunstall Park, Mad O'Rourke's Pie Factory and the Express & Star where she gives editor Keith Harrison a grilling.

A highlight for many will be the 'rare interview' with Wolves 'leg-end' Steve Bull who also hails from Tipton and made his acting debut in Doreen – The Movie. Much of the DVD will

resonate with the proud Black Country people. Whether she answers the dilemma or not, her tour does highlight the region's kindred spirit, sense of community and humour.

This is a must-watch for anyone proud of the Black Country, is interested in its heritage, or who simply enjoys a bit of a loff. It is now available at the website [www.doreen.tv](http://www.doreen.tv)



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# 12 Anger at churchyard's grave state

The Chronicle Thursday, October 5, 2017

**THERE** are concerns for the state of some graves at a cemetery in Walsall, after toppled and smashed headstones appear to have been left abandoned.

Some plots at Ryecroft Cemetery look like they haven't been tended to for years and regular visitor Anne Thorpe says she was appalled by the condition of some of the graves, which she says is disrespectful.

She suspects some of the damage could have been caused by lawnmowers and Walsall Council, which maintains the site, on Coalpool Lane, said it could not be ruled out.

However, bosses said most of the damage is believed to have been a result of weathering and movement in the ground over time. Some damage could also have been caused by vandalism, the council said.

Councillor Ian Shires, leisure and communities chief at the authority, said maintenance of the graves was



Anne Thorpe, who has aired concerns over the state of some graves

ultimately down to families. However, many date back to around 1925, meaning it is possible descendants have died, moved away or are not aware they exist meaning there could be no one to care for them.

Miss Thorpe, aged 62, whose father

was once superintendent at the cemetery and has relatives buried there, said: "We visit fairly regularly to tend family graves and for genealogy research, and we are dismayed at the state the place is in."

"We can understand that difficul-



One of the toppled over memorials

ties with council funding means that severe cutbacks have been made, so we can ignore the overgrown paths and occasional piles of litter. However, what is more difficult to forgive is the damage to gravestones being done by council workmen.

"While we know that many of these graves are already in a sad condition because there's nobody left to tend them, it's still fact that each one has the remains of someone beneath it."

She added: "It just seems there is not the consideration and care taken over the older graves. It's another bit of Walsall's history which is being lost."

Councillor Shires said: "While no accidental damage by grass cutting machinery has been reported recently, this cannot be completely ruled out in this particular instance, due to the traditional layout of memorials and unevenness of ground levels."

"Graves in the section of the cemetery referred to date from around 1925 and in the region of 90 per cent appear to have suffered from both ground settlement and weathering."

"Our staff are fully trained in the use of all grass cutting machinery and are aware of the sensitivities associated with carrying out maintenance in cemeteries. Should anyone who visits a grave have any cause for concern we would ask them to contact us."

## Video launched to show plight of Isabella, 10

MILLIONS of people around the world have watched a ten-year-old girl's hard-hitting video launched in her latest bid to fight cancer.

Isabella Lytle has been battling her high risk neuroblastoma since she was three but having suffered her third devastating relapse earlier this year, options for treatment in the UK are running out. Now her family has launched a campaign to fund £200,000 life-saving treatment in America.

As part of the drive the brave St. Francis School pupil has gone in front of the camera to make a video which has gone viral in a matter of days. The 90-second production called "10 year old Isabella shouldn't know the 'C' word" features the word cancer bleeped out more than half a dozen times.

Visit YouTube to see the video and donate to Isabella's campaign at [www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/solvingkidscancer/isabellalytle](http://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/solvingkidscancer/isabellalytle)

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## Car-jacking attempt is caught on CCTV



Part of the footage which shows the attack on the man by two assailants with metal poles

THIS is the moment a man was attacked with metal poles in an attempted car-jacking. The shocking CCTV coverage shows the 43-year-old being set upon by two masked individuals who hit him over the head in a desperate attempt to steal the keys to his blue BMW M4.

Despite being viciously assaulted, pushed to the floor, and hit over the head the car-owner fought off the crooks, refusing to simply hand over the keys to his prized car.

The vicious attack happened in Tilesford Close, Shirley, Birmingham on Friday September 22.

Officers believe the same suspects attacked another man at Costa Coffee in Friars Gate, Shirley earlier that day in an attempt to steal his Mercedes.

On both occasions the suspects fled in a blue VW Golf with the registration plate BD57 ULH. The vehicle is believed to be using stolen plates.

Anyone with information should call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Please quote crime number 20SH/202632T/17.

## Treatment for eating disorders tops 200

MORE than 200 children in the region have been treated for eating disorders in the last three years – with one waiting 29 weeks for their first appointment.

New figures show patients as young as eight have been treated for conditions such as anorexia and bulimia across the region.

Figures released under Freedom of Information show a total of 224 children have been referred to the NHS for eating disorders since 2014/15.

There were 168 children and teenagers referred to the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, and 28 each to Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, and South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

The average waiting times for patients' first treatment sessions varied from around four to under two weeks.

The longest recorded was 29 weeks by a patient treated by the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust – more than 200 days.

It led Wolverhampton Liberal Democrat campaigner Rob Quarmby to brand it a 'postcode lottery'.

By Rob Gollidge

He said: "I think it is a scandal that children are being denied prompt access to vital mental health services simply because of the postcode lottery."

"It's unforgivable that some patients have to wait more than 200 days for an appointment."

The Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust did not respond for comment.

However, Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust said: "The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Eating Disorders service has very specific timescales attached to it, an urgent case will be seen within one week of referral and a routine case within four weeks; to date these timescales have not been breached."

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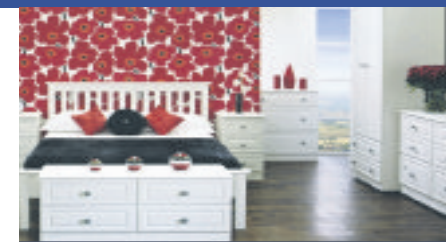
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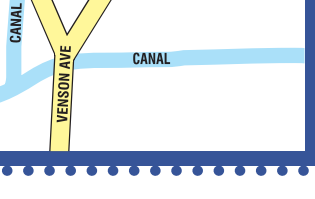
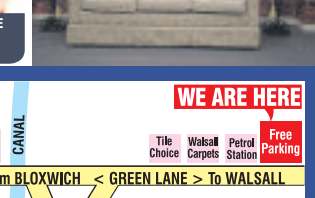
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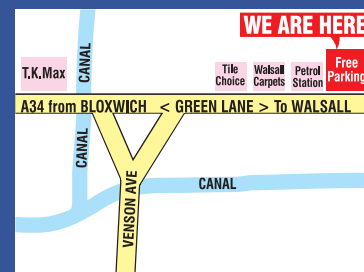
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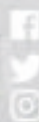
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# Display is steeling in the years



A machine worker carries out steel rod angle bending at the site

**MADE in Oldbury is a project exploring unique archive materials in Sandwell in relation to local industrial heritage.**

The project is organised by artist group Laundry, working with Sandwell Community and History Archive Service and Oldbury and Langley Local History Societies, and offers an opportunity to explore the personal impact of local industry within living memory.

### Production

The initiative has been set up with monetary support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In October, the project is staging an exhibition of rare photographs unearthed from the archives of Sandwell and Oldbury and Langley Local History, alongside new artworks from local artists, Jain McKay, Joshua Whitehouse, the Happy Painters

Group and students from Q3 Academy Langley, who have undertaken workshops with archive materials.

Kate Jackson is also showing a series of behind-the-scenes photographs of work at Metsec on Broadwell Road, one of the oldest sites of metal production in the area, which is still operating today.

The exhibition is on show at the Arts Café, Central Sixth, in West Bromwich's New Square until November 2, on Monday to Friday at 10am - 5pm; and on Saturdays October 7 and 21, 10am - 2pm.

A special preview of the exhibition, which took place on Tuesday, featured the launch of a newspaper by Oldbury Writing Group (who have produced creative writing in response to archive material) as well as a talk by Brendan Clifford, 'What England was to become...' - telling the story of the Romantic painter J.M.W. Turner's Midlands Tour.

The project will finish next month with a new website and a photographic catalogue set up.



Workers with some of the machinery at the plant



The London Works in Halesowen Street, Oldbury from 1948



Local artist Jain McKay's typical view of Oldbury and the canal



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## More pets on parade in Chronicle competition



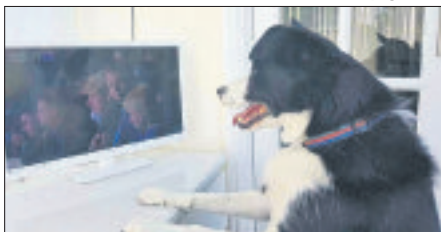
Sugar and Sylvie in a coveted place



Guinea pigs Sherlock and Holmes



West Highland terriers Misty and Meg



Six-year-old border collie Jess enjoys watching tennis



Border terrier Judy, aged 10, has recovered from cancer

# Snapshots reveal creature comforts

There is certainly some animal magic going on around here – as your pet pictures show.

Since The Chronicle launched its Animal Crackers photo competition readers have snapped to it and are sending in a host of cute, quirky and arty pictures of their pets.

From doe-eyed dogs, to cute kittens to fluffy guinea pigs, we loved it. And we want more pictures. Send us a picture of your beloved pet and as well as



the chance to see your family pet in print, you could also win a £100 cash prize.

It can be any animal as long as it is

a pet belonging to you or a member of your family.

Our Chronicle judges are simply looking for interesting pictures. We will select 10 of our favourite pictures and then it is up to our readers to decide which picture deserves the cash prize.

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# Hefner widow 'will not inherit £32m fortune'

THE widow of late Playboy founder Hugh Hefner looks set to inherit nothing of his multi-million pound fortune after his death, according to reports.

Crystal Harris, who lived in West Bromwich with her family during her childhood, married the Playboy mogul, who is worth an estimated £32 million (\$43 million) in 2012.

He died at the age of 91 last week, leaving Crystal, 61 years his junior, a widow. According to reports, the former Playmate of the Year will inherit nothing of his fortune after signing a prenuptial agreement.

It is believed that she will be 'looked after' by his family instead.

The model married the infamous magazine boss a year after first calling off the nuptials when she got 'cold feet'.

## American

Before moving to America the beauty's mother, Lee Lovitt used to run the Ye Olde Rose & Crown pub in Cape Street, West Bromwich, which has long since closed.

Crystal was born an American citizen to her British parents Ray and Lee in Lake Havasu, Arizona, where they were working at an England-themed amusement park.

The family moved back to the UK shortly after her birth.

Growing up in the Greet's Green area of West Bromwich, Crystal returned to America, settling in San Diego, California, with her parents and older sisters Melanie and Nikki, when she was 10.

Following her split from Hefner after she called off the initial wedding



The Ye Olde Rose and Crown pub



Crystal in Britain at a younger age



Hugh Hefner and his wife Crystal Harris pictured in 2010

in 2011, the pair reunited. Hefner said he wanted to spend the rest of his life with Crystal and he insisted that their age gap didn't matter.

Crystal was his third wife. He also had four children by previous partners.

The magazine posted a photo in black and white of its creator, accompanied by one of his quotes that read:

"Life is too short to be living somebody else's dream." Describing him as an 'American icon', they tweeted on Wednesday: "Hugh M. Hefner passed away today. He was 91. #RIPHe"

In a further statement Playboy Enterprises said Hefner 'peacefully passed away today from natural causes at his home, The Playboy Mansion, surrounded by loved ones'.

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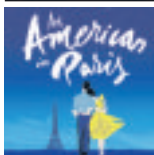
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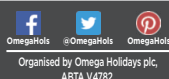
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Highlights include; Noel Fitzpatrick Live (presented by The Supervet, Professor Noel Fitzpatrick), Top Cats Competition sponsored by Hill's and GCCF and SuperDogs Live (presented by TV's Michaela Strachan).

There will be kids "Teepee" talks and animal handling sessions, the Secret Rabbit Garden and more than 90 educational talks and live performances.

With theatres in each show zone, visitors will receive top tips and free pet care advice from experts.

The SuperTheatre will also play host to live performances from the canine stars of SuperDogs Live, presented by TV's Michaela Strachan, including an opening performance by Britain's Got Talent Finalists Lucy Heath and Trip

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PAGE 2

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# It's the perfect Pace for a big old Hairspray 'do'

**H**e's sitting in a pub in Lytham St Anne's. Norman Pace is chipper. The actor and comedian who is best known as one half of the comedy duo Hale and Pace has as much work as he would care for and is at peace with the world.

He's presently on the road in Hairspray, the 15-minute blitzkrieg of scintillating fabulousness. The all-singing, all-dancing, all-action musical is set in Baltimore, 1962.

It tells the story Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger dream: to dance her way onto national TV, and into the heart of teen idol Link Larkin. Tracy's audition makes her a local star and soon she is using her new-found fame to fight for integration. But can she win equality – and Link's heart – without denting her 'do?

The feel-good musical features the hit songs Welcome To The 60s, You Can't Stop The Beat, The Nicest Kids in Town and many more and has Norman smiling each and every night.

"I have to say that I know Hairspray is a very good show but this really is a tremendous production. Drew McOnie is the go-to choreographer in Broadway and the West End and has worked on this.

"They really pulled out all the stops to get the right people for the show. They went through 1,600 hopefuls before they settled on the 32 people that you see on on stage. It's my first time in it and I'm loving it. A few of the guys have done this before but I'm the new boy, which is funny, since I'm also by far the oldest."

Reaching the tender age of 64 – amid a cast of 20-somethings – is great fun for Norman. Being around the younger generation keeps him young.

"I love being with the kids. Their enthusiasm and joie de vivre is inspiring. I get up at the end of the show and we do You Can't Stop The Beat. I love it. I do it eight times a week. Before I start, I know the audiences will love it and go mad. We've done 40-odd shows and every one has been a standing ovation.

"Seriously, you couldn't wish for a better group. Last night, after the show in Blackpool, one of the guys from the show said he knew a bloke who'd got a pub that did live music. Out of the 55 people on tour, 40 people turned up and we had a great night. The band got up and entertained us. It's brilliant fun."

Norman has to pinch himself when he considers the number of years he's successfully spent in showbusiness. The former teacher has been treading the

Dare to dream – Norman Pace stars in the feel-good musical



boards for 36 years – many of them with his friend and comic partner Gareth Hale. They recently recorded four episodes of ITV's Benidorm, spending 10 weeks in Spain with Shropshire actor John Challis, among others.

And yet for Norman, all roads lead to the Black Country. Though he grew up in Newark-on-Trent, in Nottinghamshire, his heart belongs to Dudley.

"My granny and grandad lived in Dudley. When my mother was pregnant with me at the age of 18, she went to Dudley to have the baby. I think there was some sort of scandal because of the Catholic Church – if it wasn't for the church, I wouldn't be here. They didn't do such things as abortion back then.

So mum tried to pull a fast one and had me in Dudley then I'd visit my granny and grandad on holidays. They lived on Blowers Green Crescent, I still remember it now.

"There were slag heaps that were turned into football pitches and I'd go there until about the age of ten. The family were West Brom fans and took me to the Hawthorns to cheer on the Baggies. They were happy times. I felt very loved when I visited the Black Country."

Fame came calling for Hale and Pace when they worked together on a series of comedy shows, as well as featuring in Dalziel and Pascoe, guest starring in the Doctor Who serial Survival and featuring in a Christmas Special of Extras. "It was a joyride. The whole thing was

thrilling and we didn't have a minute to stop and think about it. If Gareth and I weren't making the TV series, we'd be touring. In every spare moment we'd be writing and we were even stupid enough to go on holiday together as families.

"The only downside about that experience was losing your privacy. At the petrol station, a queue of people would look at you like you were in a goldfish bowl. I'm under the radar these days and there are times when I grow a beard and people don't recognise me. It used to be that you'd get people arguing about which one you were. But it's no big deal. I had my taste of that life and it was intense. I can understand why film stars have people to fill their car up for them. Can you imagine what would happen if Rod Stewart was on the forecourt at Morrisons?"

Norman has no plans to slow down. There's no exit strategy, no secret yearning for a quieter life, no intention of upping sticks and moving to somewhere quieter.

"The laughter is what keeps you coming back. Even now, after all these years, if you're good at it and have a lot of experience and have enjoyed a long career, you can still learn a lot of things about how to do it better. I always want to beat the laughter I got last night, I want to keep moving forward."

He loves the fact that he's been able to play both TV and theatre during a starry career. He's worked with tremendous actors down the decades and their skills have helped him to develop.

For now, all thoughts are of Hairspray. "It's great bringing the show to Birmingham because Dudley's only just down the road and that's always been special to me. I'm hoping that people from Dudley and Wolves will pop over and say hello."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



Kara Lily Hayworth as Cilla Black



## Step inside for musical story of singing star Cilla

LEADING lady in Cilla The Musical, Kara Lily Hayworth, beat thousands of hopefuls to be named as the girl to step into the Liverpool legend's shoes in the first musical about the star's life, at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre next week.

Cilla The Musical, which began its tour in Liverpool last month, is an adaptation of the critically acclaimed ITV mini-series based on the early life of Cilla Black, by BAFTA award-winner, Jeff Pope.

Kara queued for four hours at London's Dominion Theatre to have her chance to audition in the first rounds. She made it to a final audition at the Cavern Club in Liverpool. Executive producer Robert Willis, who is Cilla's son, said: 'We wanted somebody who wasn't going to impersonate my mum but someone

who could capture her spirit. Kara came in with her huge personality and amazing voice. When I saw the response of the audience at the Cavern, I knew we'd found her!'

From Watford, Kara trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama, and this will be her first leading role in a big musical. She even briefly met the 1960s pop star turned TV presenter, when the 11-year-old Kara got the Surprise Surprise host's autograph.

"She was a huge inspiration to me as a child," says Kara. "I grew up watching her on Blind Date every Saturday night with my Nan. To play her is such an honour."

The show is packed with 60s songs including Cilla's own hits, such as Anyone Who Had a Heart and Alfie.

## Gangsters, no, kids' TV did it for Coolio

He's a Grammy-award winning rapper, best known for his mega hit Gangsta's Paradise.

But 54-year-old Coolio has come a long way since the mid 90s. He's now a chef and activist for the environment and raising awareness of asthma, a TV and film star.

The Compton-born star (that's LA not Wolverhampton) will come to Arena Birmingham with I Love The 90s on Saturday which Coolio says is the greatest tour of his career. Joining him will be fellow 90s stars Vanilla Ice, Salt N Peppa, Color Me Badd, Tone Loc and Young MC.

"This tour is really great. Everybody knows each other, and have done for so many years; it's like going on tour with your family," he said.

"It's an amazing show. This is one of the best tours of my career. There's just non-stop involvement and dancing.

"I've always had a good time in the UK. I can't think of a bad time I've had there. At the beginning of my career, there may have been a few mishaps. But people have always treated me well there and I've done shows pretty much everywhere in the UK."

Coolio has not only made his

name as a rap artist, but also as a writer of theme songs, having rapped the theme tune to children's TV show Kenan and Kel, which also opened up the world of acting to the Californian. Since then, he's had parts in Adult Swim TV show Black Jesus and Daredevil, as well as taking part in UK reality show Celebrity Big Brother and game show Tipping Point.

"Kenan and Kel, believe it or not, has turned out to be the one of the most important things I've done in my career. Just as much as Gangsta's Paradise," added Coolio.



## Greg puts Brum to task in festival

A host of comic talent is gathering for Birmingham Comedy Festival at various venues. Highlights include Taskmaster's Greg Davies, right, at Symphony Hall Monday and Tuesday. Brum's Joe Lycett joins Yardley MP Jess Phillips at the Town Hall on Wednesday. Henning Wehn proves Germans have a sense of humour at the Town Hall next Friday and Saturday. Other acts include Matt Lucas, Simon Amstell, Phill Jupitus and Zoe Lyons. See [www.bhamcomfest.co.uk](http://www.bhamcomfest.co.uk)



## Powerhouse trio Yak back for home city gig

FEROCIOUS London-based rock trio Yak, fronted by Wolverhampton's Oli Burslem, have a rare gig in his home city at Newhampton Arts Centre on Thursday, October 12. Gigs at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms include rockers Arcane Roots tomorrow (Friday), blues singer Rebecca Downes on Saturday, acclaimed guitarist Andy McKee on Sunday, Nottingham's Amber Run play Tuesday and Broken Witt Rebels next Friday.

US country star Marty Stuart is at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow, Wolverhampton's Beverley Knight brings soul to Symphony Hall on Sunday. Country-pop outfit Lady Antebellum play Birmingham Arena on Monday, the same night Nick Mulvey is at O2 Institute in Digbeth. Dweezil Zappa celebrates father Frank's legacy at Birmingham Town Hall on Thursday.

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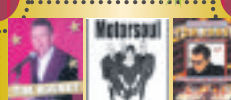
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CHOICE



Ross Sutherland

**Basquiat - Rage to Riches (BBC2, 9pm)**  
Documentary, exploring the rise in profile of the output of American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, whose work is currently the subject of a large-scale exhibition at the Barbican in London - the first time a wholly Basquiat collection has been displayed in the UK. This film serves as a portrait of Jean-Michel's origins, making use of interviews with his sisters Lisane and Jeanine, along with accounts from his friends, confidants, lovers and contemporaries, to detail how a self-taught, Brooklyn-born artist came to rank alongside the likes of Picasso, de Kooning and Francis Bacon on the international art marketplace - 29 years after his death.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 12.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News. Weather. 1.15 Gymnastics: World Championships. 2.45 Film: Muppets Most Wanted. (2014) Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais. 4.25 Chris Coleman: Dare to Dream. 5.25 BBC News. 5.35 Regional Programme. 5.45 Pointless Celebrities.**  
**6.35 Strictly Come Dancing.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the pro-celebrity dance competition continues. Last week, the couples were given their first taste of the pressures of avoiding elimination, and the tension does not let up as the second round of the competition proper gets under way with Movie Week. As in previous competitions, the 14 duos are challenged to come up with routines that pay homage to Hollywood's greatest films, and they begin with a group performance that serves as a tribute to recent smash-hit musical La La Land. As always, Shirley Ballas, Craig Revel Horwood, Bruno Tonioli and Darcey Bussell are on hand to deliver their verdict on the stars' performances, before handing over judging duties to viewers at home, who will get a chance to have their say over which performers to back ahead of the results show.  
**8.40 Casualty.** Dylan is forced to bring Santos into the Emergency Department, much to David's dismay, and Lily grows ever more jealous of the bond forming between Iain and Sam. Meanwhile, Connie struggles to deal with the severity of her diagnosis, and tries to come to terms with what it means for her future.  
**9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes and the Brown family await the fruits of their fraud after faking Grandad's death to get a payout, but the insurance company starts to grow suspicious. (R)  
**10.00 BBC News:** Weather.; National Lottery Update.  
**10.20 Film: Thor: The Dark World. (2013)** The thunder god joins forces with his treacherous brother to defend the universe against an old foe. Superhero adventure sequel, with Chris Hemsworth.  
**12.05 The NFL Show. 12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.40 BBC News.**

BBC2

**7.10 Film:** Hans Christian Andersen. (1952) **9.00 Saturday Mash-Up! 11.00 Natural World. (R) 12.00 Rick Stein's Long Weekends. (R) 1.00 Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) 1.30 Flog It! (R) 2.30 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands. (R) 3.30 India: Nature's Wonderland. (R) 4.30 Mastermind. (R) 5.00 The Big Family Cooking Showdown. (R)**  
**6.00 Anglesey: Island Life.** New series. The lives of some of the residents of Wales' largest island, including Mike Williams, who is trying to get his smoke-damaged shop back on its feet.  
**6.30 Gardeners' World.** Monty Don gives advice on making leaf mould from fallen leaves and how to use it. Frances Tophill helps a gardener whose plants are not thriving where they are planted. (R)  
**7.30 Front Row.** Harrison Ford and Ryan Gosling discuss Blade Runner 2049. Ian McKellen offers a masterclass in playing Shakespeare's King Lear, and Tim Minchin performs live in the studio.  
**8.00 Britain Afloat.** Mary-An Ochota tells the story of river boats in Britain, reaching back through time to investigate the ancient coracle, which is thought to have been in use for 40,000 years.  
**8.30 Dad's Army.** Warden Hodges challenges Captain Mainwaring's platoon to a cricket match. Featuring a guest appearance by former England and Yorkshire fast bowler Fred Trueman. (R)  
**9.00 Basquiat - Rage to Riches.** Documentary, profiling the rise in profile of the work of American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, via interviews with his sisters, friends, confidants, lovers and contemporaries.  
**10.30 Performance Live: Missing Episode.** Ross Sutherland's audio-visual poem, which remixes an edition of EastEnders from October 7, 1997 to tell the story of what happened to the poet the night that episode first aired.  
**11.00 Later - with Jools Holland.** The pianist welcomes the National back to the show, along with Morrissey, Queens of the Stone Age, Khalid, Jessie Ware and Marty Stuart.  
**12.05 Film:** Bright Days Ahead. (2013)  
**1.35 Film:** A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square. (1979)

ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Sooty. **6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Super 4. (R) 7.00 Mission: Emploable. (R) 7.05 Oddbods. (R) 7.10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. 7.30 Scrambled!:** Scrambled! **7.35 Scrambled!:** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50 Scrambled!:** Fangbone. (R) **8.10 Scrambled!:** The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30 Scrambled!:** Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05 Scrambled!:** Adventure Time. **9.25 Saturday Morning with James Martin. 11.20 Midsomer Murders. (R) 1.10 ITV News; Weather. 1.15 Catchphrase. (R) 2.00 The Chase. (R) 2.55 The X Factor: Bootcamp. (R) 4.25 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 4.50 Little Big Shots. (R) 5.50 Regional Programme.; Weather.**  
**6.00 ITV News;** Weather.  
**6.15 Cannonball.** Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which contestants tackle a series of water-based, obstacle course challenges in the hope of claiming the Cannonball Cup.  
**7.10 The Family Chase.** Bradley Walsh hosts one final round of the family-themed edition of the game show. This time, the Price clan from Oldham makes a bid to outplay one of the resident professional quizzers. Last in the series.  
**8.15 The X Factor: Bootcamp.**  
**9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show.** Game of Thrones star Kit Harington joins Jonathan in the studio, and while he will no doubt be talked into chatting about the shocking developments for his character Jon Snow at the end of the show's penultimate series, discussion is likely to fall on the fact that he is starring as Robert Catesby - his own ancestor - opposite fellow guest Liv Tyler in the BBC's historical drama Gunpowder later this autumn. Also taking a seat on the sofa this evening are former Great British Bake Off presenter Sue Perkins, Grammy Award-winning singer Mary J Blige, and comedian Rob Beckett.  
**10.45 ITV News;** Weather.  
**11.05 Film: American Pie: The Wedding. (2003)** The friends reunite to celebrate Jim and Michelle's forthcoming trip to the altar - but events quickly spiral out of control. Comedy sequel, with Jason Biggs and Alyson Hannigan.  
**12.50 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Hungry Sailors. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 Mobil 1 The Grid. 6.45 Triathlon:** Stoke on Trent City of Sport. **7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 The Big Bang Theory. 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. 10.55 The Simpsons. (R) 11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 11.55 The Crystal Maze. (R) 1.00 Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. 2.30 World's Most Expensive Cars. 3.35 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) 4.35 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) 5.35 Location, Location, Location. (R)**  
**6.30 Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00 Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson.** The Time Team veteran continues his journeys down some of the UK's oldest trackways and roads. This time, he visits the Peak District, where he ventures along the Derbyshire Portway, which is believed to date from the Bronze Age, and can be traced from Mam Tor in the north of the county, through to the Hemlock Stone on the edge of Nottingham. Along the way, he examines a prehistoric shark tooth, shines a light in an abandoned railway tunnel and takes a tour of DH Lawrence's mountain retreat.  
**8.00 WWI's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trails.** Monty Halls travels along the ridges of the French Pyrenees mountains on the border with Spain, which were traversed by thousands of people seeking to escape Nazi occupation.  
**9.00 Film: Escape Plan. (2013)** An expert takes a contract from the CIA to test a maximum security prison by trying to break out of it, but he soon discovers he has been duped and that his captors intend him to stay inside for ever. He hatches a plan to escape, but to succeed he will need the help of a long-term convict - who wants his own freedom in return for assistance. Thriller, with Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger.  
**11.15 Film: The Gunman. (2015)** After spending years in hiding, a mercenary becomes the latest target of his former colleagues. Crime drama, starring Sean Penn and Idris Elba.  
**1.20 The Last Leg. (R) 2.20 Hollyoaks. 4.30 Building the Dream. (R) 5.25 Four in a Bed. (R) 5.55 Kevin Can Wait.**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.30 The Gadget Show. (R) 11.20 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) 11.50 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.50 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.50 Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) 2.50 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 3.50 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 4.50 5 News Weekend. 4.55 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 5.50 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 6.50 Film: Where Eagles Dare. (1968)**  
An American general is held captive by the Nazis in a heavily defended fortress in the Alps. A crack team of British soldiers and an American lieutenant are dispatched to free him, but they soon realise there is a traitor in their ranks. Second World War adventure, starring Richard Burton, Clint Eastwood, Patrick Wymark, Michael Hordern and Mary Ure.  
**9.45 Live Boxing: York Hall Brawl.** Andrew Selby v Maximino Flores. Coverage of the WBC world flyweight eliminator, which takes place at York Hall in Bethnal Green. Welshman Selby is undefeated thus far in his fledgling career, having won all nine of his previous bouts, with five of them being by stoppage.  
**11.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Doncaster Rovers v Southend United and Barnet v Coventry City.  
**12.15 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with an entertaining mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. Featuring a variety of prizes and promotions. **3.10 Film:** Love at the Parade. (2012) The organiser of Chicago's Thanksgiving parade is furious when a consultant is brought in to take charge of the event's finances, thinking he is only interested in profit. But when she suffers an unexpected crisis, she finds support in her previously unwanted colleague, and begins to fall for him. Romantic drama, with Autumn Reeser and Antonio Cupo. **4.40 Divine Designs.** Paul Binski investigates the period after the Second World War, which saw the birth of a modern style of ecclesiastical architecture. He visits Coventry and Chichester cathedrals to highlight the contemporary designs. (R)  
**5.05 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.30 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R)**

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00 The Incredible Human Journey 8.00 Wild China 9.00 Black Lake 10.25 James May: The Christmas Reassembler 10.55 James May: The Reassembler 11.25 British Sitcom: 60 Years of Laughing at Ourselves 12.25 Top of the Pops: 1984 1.30 EMI: The Inside Story 2.30 Wild China 3.30 Close**  
**ITV2**  
**11.25 The X Factor: Bootcamp 1.00 Film: The Lake House (2006) 2.00 FYI Daily 2.05 Film: The Lake House (2006) 3.05 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) 4.05 FYI Daily 4.10 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) 4.55 Film: Happy Feet (2006) 5.55 FYI Daily 6.00 Film: Happy Feet (2006) 7.00 Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) 8.05 FYI Daily 8.10 Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) 10.15 Celebrity Juice 11.05 Family Guy 12.30 American Dad! 1.25 Bromans 2.25 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.30 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen**  
**ITV3**  
**11.50 Bertie and Elizabeth 1.55 Rosemary & Thyme 2.55 Foyle's War 7.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Lewis 1.05 On the Buses 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping**  
**ITV4**  
**11.30 British Touring Car Championship Highlights 1.00 Pawn Stars 1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Ascot. Coverage of today's meetings from Ascot, Newmarket and Redcar. 4.00 World Cup Top Goalscorers 4.10 Pawn Stars 5.10 Hornblower 7.25 World Cup Qualifier Live. Belarus v Netherlands (Kick-off 7.45pm). 10.00 River Monsters 11.00 World Cup Qualifier Highlights 12.30 The Sweeney 1.35 The Classic Car Show 2.25 The Car Chasers 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping**  
**E4**  
**12.00 The Big Bang Theory 3.00 Don't Tell the Bride 4.00 The Great British Bake Off 5.15 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (2011) 11.20 Naked Attraction 12.30 Gogglebox**  
**Film4**  
**11.00 Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) 1.00 The Boxtrolls (2014) 2.50 Parental Guidance (2012) 4.55 Crocodile Dundee (1986) 6.50 Crocodile Dundee II (1988) 9.00 Unbroken (2014) 11.40 Underworld: Awakening (2012) 1.20 White God (2014) 3.45 Close**

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CHOICE



**Louis Theroux**  
**Louis Theroux: Dark States - Heroin Town (BBC2, 9pm)**  
In Huntington, West Virginia, Louis Theroux embeds himself in an Appalachian community that is being devastated and stretched to its limits by widespread heroin use. He spends time with members of the user community that are caught in the grip of drug addiction, and follows the emergency services as they struggle to cope with multiple overdoses each day.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** Lifetime. **4.10** Songs of Praise. **4.45** Who Do You Think You Are? (R) **5.45** BBC News.  
**6.05** Regional Programme.  
**6.15** Countryfile. Anita Rani and Matt Baker visit Dumfries House in East Ayrshire. They discover how the estate employs many local people and provides young people with a chance to develop traditional craft skills and work with the rare breed cattle on the house's farms. Plus, Charlotte Smith investigates how electric cars will be powered and Adam Henson checks up on his pregnant sheep and cows.  
**7.15** Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Claudia Winkleman and Tess Daly reveal the next couple to leave the contest.  
**8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Nymans Gardens near Crawley. Items brought in to be valued include an axe used in one of George Mallory's ascents of Everest, a sofa that put in an appearance in a classic movie, a diver's watch and a bag of trinkets found on top of a wardrobe that turns out to contain something unexpected.  
**9.00** The Last Post. Mary goes into labour while her husband has left the city to rendezvous with the SAS, who are returning to Aden after a secret mission to capture a dangerous fugitive.  
**10.00** BBC News.  
**10.20** Regional Programme.  
**10.30** Sir Bobby Charlton at 80. Documentary celebrating the life and career of the former Manchester United footballer, who won the World Cup with England on home soil in 1966, as he approaches his 80th birthday.  
**11.35** The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.  
**12.10** The Graham Norton Show. (R) **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.25** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.25** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.25** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.55** Countryfile. (R) **9.50** Saturday Kitchen: Best Bites. **11.20** Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) **11.50** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.35** Alfred Hitchcock: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.15** Film: Dial M for Murder. (1954) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Ray Milland. **3.00** Gymnastics: World Championships. **5.00** Rugby League Grand Final Highlights.  
**6.00** Top Gear. Rory Reid and Sabine Schmitz go in search of the latest supercars at Germany's Nurburgring circuit, while Matt LeBlanc test drives the Aston Martin DB11, but finds Chris Harris and his Mercedes causing no end of trouble. Tamsin Greig takes to the Top Gear Test Track as this week's Star in a Reasonably Fast Car. (R)  
**7.00** Russia with Simon Reeve. The adventurer embarks on a journey across the world's biggest country, taking him from the snow-capped volcanoes of the far east, through some of the remotest parts of the planet, to the great cities of the west, Moscow and St Petersburg. (R)  
**8.00** Dragons' Den. The panel assesses the profit-making potential of business plans for a range of eco mannequins, cork-based yoga mats, and a cycling navigation device. Presented by Evan Davis.  
**9.00** Louis Theroux: Dark States - Heroin Town. In Huntington, West Virginia, Louis Theroux embeds himself in an Appalachian community that is being devastated and stretched to its limits by widespread heroin use.  
**10.00** Snowfall. New series. An educated young man seeks a way to get on in life. Hard-hitting drama about the beginnings of the crack epidemic in 1980s Los Angeles. Damson Idris stars.  
**10.55** Mock the Week. Angela Barnes, Ed Byrne, Ed Gamble, Milton Jones and Nish Kumar join host Dara O Brain and regular Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy show. (R)  
**11.30** Film: Oranges and Sunshine. (2010) A social worker discovers thousands of British children have been sent to care homes in Australia and suffered abuse. Fact-based drama, starring Emily Watson.  
**1.10** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.10** Holby City. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission: Emplovable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.55** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Amazing Animal Births. (R) **11.25** Robson Green's Coastal Lives. (R) **11.55** Bigheads. (R) **12.55** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** The Chase. (R) **2.00** The X Factor: Bootcamp. (R) **3.30** Victoria. (R) **4.30** World Cup Qualifier Live. Lithuania v England (Kick-off 5.00pm).  
**7.15** Regional Programme: Weather.  
**7.20** ITV News: Weather.  
**7.30** The X Factor: Six Chair Challenge. Dermot O'Leary hosts the first of three six chair challenge episodes, in which each judge must choose six acts to go forward to the next stage of the contest in the Judges' Houses. The judges must make the decision as soon as each act has performed – but are free to change their mind should someone better come along later in the show.  
**9.00** Victoria. After a series of assassination attempts, the queen is forced to seek sanctuary far from the palace. She and Albert travel to the Scottish Highlands, an area that has always fascinated her, but proves to be far from the romantic retreat she had fantasised about. However, travelling incognito gives both the royal couple and their servants a freedom they do not often experience. Denis Lawson guest stars.  
**10.00** ITV News: Weather.  
**10.15** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston and Allegra Stratton, featuring reports on the latest issues and interviews with topical guests. (R)  
**11.15** World Cup Qualifier Highlights. Jacqui Oatley presents action from the latest fixtures, including Lithuania v England and Slovenia v Scotland in Group F, and Norway v Northern Ireland in Group C.  
**12.15** Liar. (R) **1.10** Jackpot247.

CHANNEL 4

**6.20** Kevin Can Wait. **6.45** Kevin Can Wait. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Highlights. **5.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R)  
**6.30** Channel 4 News.  
**7.00** Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel look ahead to wedding season, with eight couples booking the chateau for their big day. Dick also converts a stone barn into a flat for Angel's parents, getting rid of 150 years' worth of rubbish in the process, but tensions rise between the couple when he gets carried away with the trees at the front of the property. Last in the series.  
**8.00** Escape. A group of five engineers is challenged to escape from a simulated landscape that has caused several vehicles to fall into a deep canyon. Presented by Ant Middleton.  
**9.00** Electric Dreams: Crazy Diamond. A married man's life is turned upside down by an encounter with a mysterious woman that leaves him smitten. He discovers is actually a dangerous synthetic being and has an illegal plan that will transform his life if he helps. All his wife's worst fears are confirmed as she leads him into a series of disasters that threatens to destroy everything they hold dear. Steve Buscemi, Julia David, Sidse Babbett Knudsen and Joanna Scanlan star in the fourth of the series of sci-fi tales, based on Philip K. Dick's short story Sales Pitch.  
**10.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, with captain Jon Richardson and Jason Manford take on guest captain Alan Carr and Katherine Ryan. (R)  
**11.05** Film: The Secret Life of Walter Mitty. (2013) An ordinary man who drifts through life by disappearing into daydreams is forced to embark on an adventure in real life. Comedy drama, with Ben Stiller and Kristen Wiig.  
**1.10** WWII's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trails. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Wissper. (R) **7.00** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.10** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.45** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.30** Floogals. (R) **8.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.00** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Film: Innerspace. (1987) Sci-fi comedy, starring Dennis Quaid. **2.50** Film: Mannequin. (1987) **3.50** News Update. **3.55** Film: Mannequin. (1987) **4.35** Film: Annie. (1982) **5.35** News Update. **5.40** Film: Annie. (1982) John Huston's musical, with Aileen Quinn and Albert Finney.  
**7.05** Deep-Sea Super Predator. Documentary following the search for a mysterious creature that is large enough to hunt down and devour a three-metre great white shark. (R)  
**8.00** Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman introduce action from the sixth round of matches, including Harlequins v Sale Sharks, Exeter Chiefs v Newcastle Falcons, and Saracens v Wasps.  
**8.55** 5 News Weekend.  
**9.00** Film: Wild Card. (2015) Premiere. A Las Vegas bodyguard with a gambling problem finds himself on the wrong side of a mob boss. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Michael Angarano.  
**10.00** 5 News Update.  
**10.05** Film: Wild Card. (2015) Premiere. A Las Vegas bodyguard with a gambling problem finds himself on the wrong side of a mob boss. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Michael Angarano.  
**11.05** Film: Safe. (2012) A former cage fighter protects a 12-year-old girl holding valuable information that several criminal factions want. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Catherine Chan.  
**12.50** Car Crash TV. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Film: A Lonely Place to Die. (2011) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **5.50** Access. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Addicted to Sheep **9.00** Horizon **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** The Search for a New Earth **12.00** Dancing Cheek to Cheek: An Intimate History of Dance **1.00** Addicted to Sheep **2.00** Horizon **3.00** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.10** 2Awesome: Ready, Set, Style **11.20** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **11.50** The X Factor: Bootcamp **1.20** Take Me Out **2.35** You've Been Framed: Gold Top 100 Animals **3.35** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **4.35** FYI Daily **4.40** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **5.15** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.15** FYI Daily **6.20** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.20** Film: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25** Film: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Through the Keyhole **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**1.00** Film: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10** Film: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **2.55** Film: Columbo: By Dawn's Early Light (1974) **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **10.00** Honest **11.05** Film: Changeling (2008) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: Changeling (2008) **1.50** The Knock **2.45** Mr Selfridge **3.35** Lewis  
**ITV4**  
**1.40** Film: Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** Film: Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **3.55** Film: The Way West (1967) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00** Film: The Way West (1967) **6.20** River Monsters **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00** Film: The Devil's Advocate (1997) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Devil's Advocate (1997) **11.55** Car Crash Global **12.55** The Sweeney  
**E4**  
**11.00** Don't Tell the Bride **12.00** My Hottest Half **1.00** The Big Bang Theory: Biggest Bangs **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Ice Age 3: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **9.55** Film: Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997)  
**Film4**  
**11.00** The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **1.00** Hercules (1983) **3.05** Stuart Little 2 (2002) **4.40** Dr Dolittle 2 (2001) **6.20** Robin Hood (2010) **9.00** Gladiator (2000) **12.00** Knight and Day (2010) **2.10** The Selfish Giant (2013) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Blade: Trinity, Channel 5, 11.05pm**  
 The fearless warrior's blood-sucking foes frame him for murder, forcing him to go on the run from the FBI while his enemies resurrect the first and most powerful of their kind – Dracula himself. Joining forces with a team of human vampire slayers, Blade embarks on a quest to wipe out the undead menace once and for all. Fantasy action thriller sequel, with Wesley Snipes and Jessica Biel. (2004)

**TUESDAY**  
**Fatal Honeymoon, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
 A woman goes on honeymoon to Australia, only to drown during a scuba-diving trip to the Great Barrier Reef. Her father is not convinced this was an accident, and begins to suspect her husband may have murdered her. A year later, he finally finds the evidence to prove his accusation. Fact-based crime drama, starring Harvey Keitel and Billy Miller. (2012)



Wild Card, Thursday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**A Mother's Fear, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
 A single mother resolves to discover the cause of her son's mysterious illness. Her investigation leads her to a corporation involved in genetically modified food and two scientists who are on the verge of a groundbreaking new discovery. Drama, starring Zoe Lister-Jones, Danny Glover and Victor Garber. (2015)

**THURSDAY**  
**Wild Card, Channel 5, 11.05pm**  
 Las Vegas bodyguard Nick Wild finds himself dealing with more than just his gambling problem after he takes revenge on the criminal who attacked his friend, little realising that the thug in question is the son of a mob boss. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham, Michael Angarano and Milo Ventimiglia. (2015)

**FRIDAY**  
**As Above, So Below, Channel 4, 12.10am**  
 An expedition ventures into a network of underground tunnels beneath Paris. As they explore the catacombs, the archaeologists experience a series of strange events and come under attack from a mysterious unknown force that seems to know their darkest secrets. Horror, starring Perdita Weeks. (2014)

# Returning drama series takes a shocking new turn

Life is never dull for Georgie Lane – and you get the impression she wants to keep it that way.

The last time we saw her, the experienced Army medic was coming to terms with being kidnapped in Kenya, but clearly the trauma involved with that situation hasn't put her off serving on the front line, because she's back in action when the new, third series begins.

This time, it's a longer run of 12 episodes featuring three stories.

"With an expanded 12-part series commission, this time Our Girl will follow our characters on three distinct missions in far-flung, dangerous parts of the globe - and we cannot wait to bring their new adventures back to BBC One," claims executive producer Caroline Skinner.

"I'm so happy that we'll be back for another series as I think there's definitely more stories to tell with Georgie," stated Michelle Keegan, who plays her, after the transmission

of the second run. "The reaction to the show has been overwhelming and I'm really thankful to everyone who's watched and supported it. It was an amazing experience filming with such an incredible group of people and I can't wait to do it all over again."

It's certainly taken her a long way from Coronation Street, where she initially made her name.

She isn't, of course, the only soap star to have featured in the acclaimed drama.

When it first began, Lacey Turner took the lead role of Molly Dawes while on hiatus from EastEnders, a teenager who decided that the military offered her a new lease of life away from the dreariness and lack of hope she felt at home. She had to turn down further adventures when she returned to Albert Square to play Stacey.

Our Girl's creator, Tony Grounds, also had a stint as an EastEnders writer, so knows how serial drama works, which is perhaps why this project appeals so much to a wide

audience; he has the inside track in making characters compelling, inspiring viewers to keep coming back for more.

This time around, the action begins in Nepal, as Grounds reveals: "On a disaster relief mission to Nepal after an earthquake hits the country, 2 Section is thrown into a perilous and life-changing situation. Michelle Keegan, brilliantly reprising her role as Corporal Georgie Lane, shows remarkable courage in the face of adversity and inspires the troops to perform their duty with bravery and compassion."

As well as carrying out her regular duties as a medic, Georgie is also entrusted with mentoring reckless new recruit Maisie, whose behaviour could put others in danger.

However, Georgie is soon distracted by handsome Nepalese engineer Milan, who is also helping the relief effort. They quickly form a close bond while working together to rebuild the area, but their lives are soon at risk when an aftershock rocks the village they were visiting.



Our Girl – Nepal Tour, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

# BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star Channel 4, 5.30pm**  
 New series. Former Gogglebox stars and B&B owners Steph and Dom Parker help people whose hotels and guest-houses are struggling, as well as those just starting out in business, aiming to take each establishment from the lowest rating to a luxury one in just five days. On arrival at the Ransdale Hotel in Bridlington, East Yorkshire, the couple challenge the owners to expand their breakfast menu, create a seaside-themed bedroom and throw a beach party for the general public. But how will today's guests rate their efforts?

**TUESDAY**  
**The Great British Bake Off Channel 4, 8pm**  
 The amateur cooks take part in Italian week, which culminates in a fiddly showstopper in the hottest temperatures ever recorded in the tent. Before that, under the ever watchful gaze of judges Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith, the contestants dish up a Sicilian signature that gets them all hot under the collar and a deceptively tricky technical. Noel Fielding and Sandi Toksvig are on hand to keep the bakers in line as the pressure of reaching the final stages of the competition intensifies.

**Russia 1917: Countdown to Revolution BBC2, 9pm**  
 A look at Russia's transition from tsarist autocracy to communist state, focusing on the involvement of three men – Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin, all of whom emerged from obscurity to forge an entirely new political system in the space of a few months. This drama-documentary examines the 245 days that brought these men to supreme power. As the history unfolds writers and historians, including Martin Amis, Orlando Figes, Helen Rappaport, Simon Sebag Montefiore and China Mieville, battle over the meaning of the Russian Revolution and explore how it shaped the world of today. Narrated by Juliet Stevenson.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Eat Well for Less? BBC1, 8pm**  
 After a break, Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin return to show more families that they can eat better and cut their bills at the same time – and they're starting with the biggest clan to date. Single mum Angela has five daughters, aged between eight and 18, and as if feeding them all wasn't tough

enough, one of her girls has Coeliac disease and another has Coeliac and Type 1 diabetes. Angela's lack of confidence in the kitchen has left her reliant on convenience foods, but with her girls all wanting different things, it's not proving to be very convenient. Gregg and Chris's first step is to get her to stop shopping daily for that night's dinner and instead start planning gluten-free meals the whole family can enjoy together.



The Last Leg, Friday, Channel 4, 10pm

**THURSDAY**  
**An Hour to Catch a Killer with Trevor McDonald ITV, 9pm**

It's known as 'the golden hour' – the first 60 minutes of a murder investigation, where every decision is crucial and can make the difference between whether a killer is caught and convicted or walks free. To provide an insight into why that time window matters so much, Trevor McDonald presents this documentary, which follows the Northumbria

homicide detectives as they investigate the death of a young woman. From the moment the body is discovered, the entire murder squad record the investigation on their HD body cameras, taking viewers inside the crime scene where an ordinary camera crew couldn't go for fear of contaminating evidence.

**FRIDAY**  
**A Celebrity Taste of Italy Channel 5, 9pm**  
 Judith Chalmers, Ian Lavender, Rula Lenska, Johnny Ball and Diana Moran sample some Italian-style rest and relaxation. Rula and Diana head off to the local sulphur springs to search for the secret of eternal youth in its volcanic mud. As they slather up, Johnny and Judith find a whole new use for olive oil – being massaged in it.

**The Last Leg Channel 4, 10pm**  
 Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by guests Armando Iannucci and Sue Perkins for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. The group members offer their own unique insight into some of the most difficult and delicate issues in modern Britain, and answer that most important of questions: is it OK?

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WOLVERHAMPTON  
MAGAZINE

# Astle family: Doyle's retirement shocking

## Pair kick off for England



Kickboxers Arron Walker, left and Harvey Adlam with coach Neil Kelly

TWO talented kickboxers from Sandwell will represent England at home and abroad next month.

Ten-year-old Harvey Adlam and 24-year-old Arron Walker will be representing their country in two international combat competitions.

They will compete in the International Combat Organisation (ICO) World Cup in Birmingham and then four days later in Italy, at the Unified World Championships in October 2017.

Harvey, who is from Cradley Heath, has been training since he was six. Last year he picked up two silver and a bronze medal at the Unified World Championships plus a bronze medal from the International Combat Organisation (ICO) British championships earlier this year.

Arron, from Rowley Regis, as well as being Harvey's coach is competing himself.

He's been training since the age

KEVIN Doyle's retirement from football suggests modern balls are just as dangerous as the old leather ones, according to Jeff Astle's daughter Dawn.

Albion legend Astle was killed at 59 by a disease brought about by heading heavy footballs, and for the past 16 years his family have been campaigning for research into the issue.

And now, former Wolves striker Doyle has retired, aged 34, because heading the ball had become 'problematic' following two concussions in this season alone. He decided to hang up his boots after consulting with medical experts.

"It's shocking, but I'm not surprised," Dawn said. "They keep saying it was the old leather footballs that did the damage and dad used to say when it was wet it was like heading a bag of bricks. It was heavy, but it was slow. It certainly didn't come with the velocity of a modern ball."

"Think about it logically. With the modern day ball, the physics still apply because it's coming quicker."

Dawn says Kevin Doyle has done the right thing, adding: "It's very sad for him first and foremost. Credit to him, he's listened to the advice of specialists and taken what is a big decision."

Albion boss Tony Pulis admitted that Doyle's retirement was concerning – and the Welshman has backed the call for more research.



Kevin Doyle



Jeff Astle

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# PROPERTY

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The Chronicle Thursday, October 5, 2017

## Three-bedroomed detached home on popular estate

A stunning property, this three-bedroomed detached home in Princethorpe Road, Willenhall, lies on the popular Scholars Heath estate.

It is for sale for offers over £215,000 with L&S Prestige Estates.

The property is well situated for easy access to a wide range of local amenities, a choice of popular local schools and excellent transport links.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "This truly is a stunning family home which has been exceptionally well appointed and maintained by its current owners. Interested parties are strongly encouraged to undertake internal viewing to fully appreciate the accommodation on offer."

Having three bedrooms with an en-suite to the master bedroom and a family bathroom, the rest of the accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a spacious lounge, guest WC, a dining/sitting room, a feature conservatory, a kitchen, driveway and a garage. The property also has double glazing and gas central heating throughout.

In more detail the entrance hall has stairs and a guest WC off. The lounge has an electric fire with a wooden surround and windows to both the front and rear. The kitchen has a range of units with complementary work surfaces, an integrated electric oven and a separate gas hob with an extractor hood over, spaces with plumbing for both a washing machine and dishwasher, space for a tall fridge freezer, ceramic tiled flooring and a door to the side.

The dining room has French doors to the conservatory which has laminate flooring and French doors opening to the rear garden.

Upstairs, bedroom one has a dressing area with fitted wardrobes and an en-suite shower room. Bedroom two overlooks the front, while bedroom three has views over the rear garden.

The bathroom has a WC, pedestal wash hand basin with mixer tap over, a panel bath with a shower head mixer tap over and part ceramic tiled walls.

Outside, there is a stone chipping frontage and a paved pathway. To the side is a driveway and garage. To the rear is an enclosed garden which is mostly laid to lawn with a paved patio area.

WILLENHALL £215,000

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## Semi-detached in need of some modernisation

**NEW INVENTION**  
**£140,000**

In need of some internal modernisation, this three-bedroomed semi-detached home in Sandringham Avenue, New Invention, Willenhall, is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates now at offers over £140,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, an entrance hallway, a through lounge/diner, a modern fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property also benefits from having double glazing throughout.

Outside there is extensive off-road parking to the fore in front of an attached garage. To the rear is an enclosed garden.

To book a viewing call 01902 606595.



## Two-bedroom bungalow in desirable spot with no chain

**ALDRIDGE**  
**£159,950**

<<<

For sale with no upward chain, this two-bedroomed bungalow in Heygate Way, Aldridge, lies in a desirable area just off Lazy Hill Road, Aldridge.

In need of refurbishment, this property is for sale through Goodchilds at £159,950.

It is set on a walkway in a popular residential area close to amenities in Lazy Hill Road and comprises of an entrance hallway, kitchen and dining area, a spacious lounge, two double bedrooms and a bathroom. To the outside is a private rear garden, a single garage and a gate accessing the rear.

In more detail the spacious lounge has a large window to the front. Bedroom one is a double and has doors leading out to the patio area. There is a single garage and brick store.

Contact 01543 226 655.

**SDL AUCTIONS**  
**BIGWOOD**

**18TH OCTOBER**  
Aston Villa Football Ground  
Starting at 11:00am

**AUCTION**

**130 LOTS**

To include properties on behalf of:  
Plus properties on behalf of Receivers/Housing Associations



**120 Lichfield Road, Four Oaks**  
6 Bed Detached Dormer Bungalow  
Guide: **£410,000+ (plus fees)**



**10 Ash Drive, West Bromwich**  
3 Bed Mid-Terraced House  
Guide: **£40,000+ (plus fees)**



**6 Cygnet Road, West Bromwich**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: **£39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)**



**39 Rudge Av., Wolverhampton**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: **£45,000+ (plus fees)**



**22 Marston Grove, Great Barr**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: **£50,000+ (plus fees)**



**40 Ashmore Lake Road, Willenhall**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: **£99,000+ (plus fees)**



**29 Chester Place, Walsall**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: **£49,000-£54,000 (plus fees)**



**22 Poole House Road, Great Barr**  
3 Bed Semi-Detached House  
Guide: **£110,000+ (plus fees)**



**60 Cartbridge Walk, Walsall**  
2 Bed Investment Property  
Current Gross Income: £5,700pa  
Guide: **£29,000-£34,000 (plus fees)**



**9 Dimmocks Avenue, Bilston**  
3 Bed Investment Property  
Current Gross Income: £7,200pa  
Guide: **£72,000-£74,000 (plus fees)**

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## Three-bedroom semi-detached home has been much improved

**BLOXWICH**  
**£120,000**

<<<

This much improved and extended three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Booth Street, Bloxwich, Walsall, is for sale through Marrion & Co at £120,000, with a £250 contribution towards buyer's legal fees, providing a Barratt Homes preferred solicitor is used.

This inter-war home has gas central heating and double glazing, with the accommodation briefly comprising a canopy porch, entrance hall/stairs, front lounge, rear dining kitchen, large conservatory, three good-sized bedrooms, fully tiled bathroom/WC, side workshop, ample driveway parking for three cars and low maintenance gardens.

The property lies in an established and popular residential area within easy reach of many local amenities.

For more details call 01922 404446.



## Spacious house has a one-bedroom annexe

**BLOXWICH**  
**£269,950**

A spacious traditional style semi-detached house in Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich, Walsall, has been extended to the side and rear providing a self-contained one-bedroom annexe.

It is for sale through Skitts at £269,950. The property is conveniently located near to Bloxwich town centre and all of its amenities and has gas radiator central heating and majority double glazing.

The main house includes three bedrooms, two reception rooms, a kitchen, verandah/utility and a bathroom. The ancillary accommodation includes a lounge, a conservatory, a kitchen, one bedroom and a bathroom. Outside there is a lovely established rear garden and a garage and off-road parking.

To book a viewing call 01922 478104.



# K. Stuart Swash

## AUCTION - 10TH OCTOBER 2017



### LEA MANOR HOLYHEAD ROAD ALBRIGHTON WV7 3BX

Residential Development Site -  
Countryside location

**Planning Permission for  
Seven Dwellings**

Viewing by appointment  
**Guide £325,000**



### 6 & 6a HUGHES AVENUE BRADMORE

Investment.

Two Flats close to shops, transport & Bantock Park  
GF - Hall, 7 Lounge Dining Kitchen, Two Double Bedroom,  
Shower Room, gas ch. Currently let £525 pcm  
FF (vacant) - Hall, Lounge Dining Kitchen, Double Bedroom,  
smart Bathroom

**Guide £144,000/£149,000**

Large gardens, off road parking. Vacant. epc D68/E41  
Viewing Friday & Saturday 6th and 7th October at 12noon



### 9 PARK DRIVE GOLDTHORN PARK

Individual design ripe for  
modernisation - generous plot  
Three bedrooms, additional  
basement rooms, 30ft. Garage  
Attractive gardens. epc E44  
**Guide £148,000/£153,000**

Viewing Friday & Saturday 6th and 7th October  
at 9.30am



### HOMELEIGH WOLVERHAMPTON STREET WILLENHALL

House, Yard & Buildings

Near town centre, gas heating, majority double glazing,  
Porch, 2 Reception, Store, Kitchen, two Bedrooms,  
Attic Room, Large Bathroom.  
Outside WC & Shower, Store, large Vehicular Yard,  
Workshop (approx. 1,900 sq. Ft.) epc F38/G300

**Guide £118,000/£123,000**

Viewing Friday & Saturday 6th and 7th October at 10.30am



### 21a CARDIFF STREET PENN FIELDS

Spacious detached, Cloakroom,  
2 Reception, smart fitted Kitchen,  
Three Bedrooms (on en suite) Bathroom,  
generous loft space  
Garden, Parking. epc C79  
**Guide £128,000**

Viewing Friday & Saturday 6th and 7th October  
at 10.45am

## FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION (subject to conditions and prior sale)

On TUESDAY

10th OCTOBER 2017 @ 6.30 p.m.

at The Ramada Park Hall Hotel

Park Drive, Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton. WV4 5AJ

VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK. PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.





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**NEW**

**LEAMORE BLOXWICH**  
GREEN LANE

**SSTC**  
**Similar Required**

- Entrance Porch,
- Hallway,
- Lounge,
- Dining/breakfast Room,
- Extended Kitchen,
- Shower-room,
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom.
- Driveway And
- Generous Landscaped Gardens

**\$129,950**

**REDUCED**

**BLOXWICH**  
VICTORIA AVENUE

- Family Detached Home
- Guests WC
- Lounge
- Refitted Kitchen/Diner
- 4 Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Garage, Driveway

**OFFERS OVER £250,000**

**REDUCED**

**BLOXWICH**  
BELL TOWER CLOSE

- Modern Apartment
- Communal Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Parking
- NO CHAIN

**OFFERS OVER £90,000**

**WOLVERHAMPTON**  
WILLERBY FOLD

- Hallway,
- Lounge Diner,
- Kitchen,
- Utility Area,
- Guest Wc,
- Two Bedrooms
- Refitted Wet Room,
- Garage,
- Gardens.
- Offered With No Chain

**\$149,950**

**BLOXWICH**  
SELBY WAY

- Generous Lounge,
- Dining Room,
- Extended Kitchen,
- Three Bedrooms,
- Bathroom And Wc.
- Driveway,
- Front And Rear Gardens

**\$99,950**

**PELSALL**  
OLD TOWN LANE

- Traditional Terrace
- Lounge Diner
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Landscaped Gardens
- Early Viewing

**OFFERS OVER £120,000**

**FEATHERSTONE**  
NORTH CRESCENT

- Fully Refurbished
- Semi Detached
- Entrance Porch
- Generous Lounge
- Stunning Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom, WC
- Driveway

**\$150,000**

**REDUCED**

**WALSALL**  
GILLITY CLOSE

- Dorma Detached Bungalow
- Entrance Hallway
- large Family Lounge
- Seven Bedrooms
- Bathroom and Shower Room
- Sitting Room
- Kitchen/diner, Utility
- En-suite and shower room
- Gardens
- Double Garage

**OFFERS OVER £500,000**

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goodchilds-uk.com



**NEWTONFALLOWELL**  
PART OF THE NEWTON FALLOWELL GROUP

31

The Chronicle Thursday, October 5, 2017



**Birmingham Road, Walsall**

- Three Storey Semi-Detached
- Five Generous Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Conservatory
- Original Features Throughout
- EPC - E



£350,000

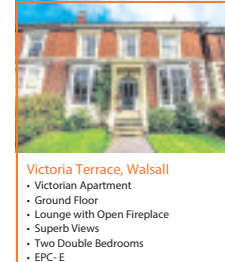


**Wallington Heath, Bloxwich**

- Very Well Presented Detached
- Four Good Sized Bedrooms
- Modern Breakfast Kitchen
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Guest Cloakroom and Utility Room
- EPC - D



£280,000



**Victoria Terrace, Walsall**

- Victorian Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Lounge with Open Fireplace
- Superb Views
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EPC - E

£275,000



**Downfield Close, Turnberry Estate**

- Immaculate Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- High Standard Kitchen and Bathroom
- Refitted En-Suite to the Master
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- EPC - D



£260,000

NEW



**Field Road, Bloxwich**

- Beautiful Detached Family Home
- Four Good Sized Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- EPC - C

£250,000


NO CHAIN



**Long Lane, Great Wryley**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Extended Lounge & Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Potential for Further Extension
- Superb Views Across Open Fields
- EPC - D

£225,000



**Bentley Lane, Reedswood**

- Immaculate Traditional Link-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Contemporary Style Bathroom
- Opening Rear Patio Area
- EPC - D

£210,000

NO CHAIN



**Woodall Street, Bloxwich**

- Four Bed Detached
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- Guest W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- EPC - C

£190,000



**Follyhouse Lane, Highgate**

- Period Style Property
- Three Bedroom End of Terrace
- Recently Refurbished
- Traditional Style Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- EPC - E

£150,000



**Meadow Lane, Pool Hayes**

- Extended Five Bedroom Property
- Separate Two Storey Annex
- Extended Kitchen/Diner
- Gated Off Road Parking
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Private Rear Garden
- Three Bathrooms
- Close to Pool Hayes Academy
- Viewing Essential!
- EPC - TBC

£260,000

NO CHAIN



**Grantown Grove, Turnberry**

- Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
- Popular Turnberry Estate
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- EPC - D

£149,950

NEW



**Elter Close, Willenhall**

- Superbly Presented Modern Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms and Ground Floor WC
- Open Plan Kitchen/Living Area
- Allocated Parking
- Close to Several Reputable Schools
- Easy Access to the M6 & M54 Motorways
- Solar Panels
- Viewing Essential
- EPC - B

£130,000

NO CHAIN



**Hadley Way, Beechdale**

- Deceptively Spacious Mid Town House
- Three Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Generous Living Room
- Bathroom with Separate Shower Cubicle
- EPC - C

£118,000



**Elm Road, Leamore**

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Driveway and Side Garage
- Extended Kitchen
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- EPC - D

Offers in Excess of £115,000

NEW



**Glastonbury Crescent, Mossley**

- NO CHAIN!
- Two Bedroom End Of Terrace
- One Reception Room
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- EPC - TBC

Offers in Excess of £100,000

NEW



**Elter Close, Willenhall**

- Superbly Presented Modern Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms and Ground Floor WC
- Open Plan Kitchen/Living Area
- Allocated Parking
- Close to Several Reputable Schools
- Easy Access to the M6 & M54 Motorways
- Solar Panels
- Viewing Essential
- EPC - B

£130,000

NO CHAIN



**Western Avenue, Bentley**

- Well Presented Mid-Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W/C/Shower Room
- EPC - D

£99,950



**Water Reed Grove, Leamore**

- Spacious Three Storey Town House
- Three Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Master
- Contemporary Style Decor
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Guest WC
- Family Bathroom
- Viewing Essential!
- EPC - B

144,995



**Pleck Road, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom End Of Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Guest WC
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Refitted Fully Tiled Bathroom
- DG & GCH
- EPC - E

£95,000

NO CHAIN



**Taverners Close, Willenhall**

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Maisonette
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- No Chain
- EPC - C

£78,950

NO CHAIN



**Reedswood Gardens, Reedswood**

- Very Well Presented Ground Floor Flat
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Ample Storage
- Superb Refitted Kitchen
- Modern Shower Room
- EPC - TBC

£75,000



## Call 01922 711444 for your Free Valuation



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wolverhampton@skitts.net 01902 788188

lettings@skitts.net 0121 520 2255

Pooles Lane,  
Short Heath,  
Willenhall

OIXO £240,000

	2		4
	2	EPC	C



Pooles Lane,  
Short Heath,  
Willenhall

£195,000

	2		3
	1	EPC	D



Helenny Close,  
Wednesfield

£190,000

	2		3
	2	EPC	D



Honeybourne  
Way, Kingfisher  
Estate, Willenhall

£189,950

	2		3
	2	EPC	D



Fibbersley,  
Wednesfield,  
Wolverhampton

£170,000

	2		3
	1	EPC	TBC



Clothier Street,  
Willenhall

£165,000

	1		3
	2	EPC	TBC



Perth Road,  
Summer Hayes,  
Willenhall

£160,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	E



Welland Grove,  
Kingfisher  
Estate, Willenhall

£155,000

	2		3
	1	EPC	D



Beccles Drive,  
Willenhall

OIXO £155,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	TBC



Treetops Drive,  
Willenhall

OIXO £140,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	TBC



Stroud Avenue,  
Willenhall

OIXO £135,000

	1		3
	1	EPC	TBC



Bentley Road  
North, Bentley,  
Walsall

£130,000

	1		2/3
	1	EPC	TBC



Yale Road,  
Willenhall

OIXO £125,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	C



Holton Court,  
Birmingham  
Street, Willenhall

£82,500

	1		2
	1	EPC	TBC



Taverners Close,  
New Invention,  
Willenhall

76,950

	1		1
	1	EPC	TBC





## UPPER PENN

### GREAT HALL GROVE, W'TON

Five Bedroom Executive Detached, Lounge & Separate Study, Modern Fitted Kitchen/ Diner, Conservatory, Guest W.C., Family Bathroom, En-Suite to both Master & Bedroom 2, Office/ Den, Double Garage & Off Road Parking

OIEO £650,000

## ESSINGTON

### HOUGH WAY, ESSINGTON

Executive Five Bed Detached, Guest W.C., Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Separate Utility Room, Two En-Suite Shower Rooms, Refitted Family Shower Room, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage

OFFERS OVER £340,000

## BRACKENDALE

### DURSLEY CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Four/Five Bedroom Detached, 23ft x 15ft Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/ Diner, Utility Room, Guest W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Driveway & Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden

OIEO £220,000

## ST THOMAS LAWNS

### PRINCETHORPE RD, WILLENHALL

Three Bedroom Detached, Spacious Lounge, Dining/Sitting Room, Feature Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Guest W.C., En-suite To Master, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Driveway & Garage

OFFERS OVER £215,000

## BENTLEY

### WESTERN CLOSE, WALSALL

Extended Four Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Conservatory, 22ft Fitted Kitchen, First Floor Shower Room, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Off Road Parking & Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden, Viewing Advised!

OFFERS OVER £185,000

## BILSTON

### MARBURY DRIVE, BILSTON

Modern Three Bed Link Detached, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Guest W.C., En-Suite Shower To Master, Family Shower Room, Part Double/ Part Triple Glazed & C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Garage

OFFERS OVER £150,000

## BENTLEY

### LANGMEAD CLOSE, WALSALL

Three Bed Semi Detached, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Front & Rear Garden, Driveway/Carport, Detached Garage, Viewing Advised!

£145,000

## NEW INVENTION

### SANDRINGHAM AV, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Semi Detached, Through Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking & Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden, Great Potential!

OFFERS OVER £140,000

## THE MANOR

### HARPER STREET, WILLENHALL

Three Story Mid Town House, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Guest W.C., Two First Floor Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Two Second Floor Bedrooms, D/ Glazing & C/Heating

OIEO £130,000

## SHORT HEATH

### MARTIN DRIVE, WILLENHALL

Three Bedroom Semi Detached, 16ft Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Driveway & Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden, Viewing Advised, Leasehold Property

OFFERS OVER £130,000

## WILLENHALL

### RAVENSBORNE GR, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Mid Town House, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC Double Glazing, Off Road Parking Space, Enclosed Rear Garden, Great F.T.B Or B.T.L

OFFERS OVER £95,000

## WILLENHALL

### VICTORIA ST, WILLENHALL

Two Bedroom Mid Terrace, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, En-Suite To The Master Bedroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Recently Modernised, Great FTB Or BTL

£84,995

## SHORT HEATH

### EZEKIEL LANE, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Mid Terrace, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing & C/Heating, Rear Garden, Great BTL Or FTB, Viewing Advised!

OFFERS OVER £80,000

## FURZEBANK

### ROEBUCK GLADE, WILLENHALL

One Bed Ground Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Private Rear Garden, Garage In Separate Block, Ideal F.T.B Or B.T.L.

£59,995

## ESSINGTON

### SNEYD LANE, W'TON

Three Bedroom Detached, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen With Dining Area, Utility Room, Guest W.C., Hooby Room/ Office, Family Bathroom, Maj.D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Driveway & Garage, Front & Rear Gardens

OFFERS OVER £300,000

## ESSINGTON

### SNEYD LANE, W'TON

Three Bedroom Semi Detached, 26ft Through Lounge/Diner, Impressive Fitted Kitchen, Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage, Enviably Location

OFFERS OVER £230,000

## BILSTON

### FAIRWAY GREEN, W'TON

Three Bed Semi Detached, 20ft Through Lounge, Spacious Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Guest W.C & Utility Room, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Driveway, Rear Garden, Viewing Advised!

OFFERS OVER £125,000

## WILLENHALL

### HARROWBY PL, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Traditional Semi, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing & C/ Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Excellent Potential, Great F.T.B.

OFFERS OVER £120,000

## SHORT HEATH

### WESLEY ROAD, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Victorian Semi, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Wet Room, First Floor Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden, Gated Off Road Parking, Great F.T.B.

OIEO £120,000

## SHORT HEATH

### LUCKNOW RD, WILLENHALL

Three Bedroom Semi Detached, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Front And Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage, No Upward Chain

OIRO £115,000

## HADLEY HEATH

### HAWKSWELL DR, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Semi Detached, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, First Floor Shower Room, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Great FTB!

OFFERS OVER £110,000

## SHORT HEATH

### SHEPHERD DRIVE, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Semi Detached, 19ft Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Covered Side Access, Guest W.C., First Floor Shower Room, D/ Glazing & Maj. C/ Heating, Driveway Parking, Front & Rear Gardens, Great FTB!

£109,995

## QUEENS LEA

### SHEPHERD DRIVE, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Semi Detached, 20ft Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Covered Outbuildings, Guest W.C., First Floor Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Great FTB!

OIEO £105,000

## BEECHDALE

### HADLEY WAY, BEECHDALE

Three Bed End Town House, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/ Diner, Hobby Room & Lean-to, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Detached Garage, Great Potential!

£100,000



## Proof of the 'hybrid' pudding was discovered in Charles Clark event!



Toyota's hybrid range tested in challenge

Charles Clark Toyota are so confident that the Toyota hybrid models range offer a better way to drive than their competitors with conventional engines that they held a Hybrid Challenge event at Wolverhampton Wanderers FC Stadium.

Customers were invited to be the judge and test drive from the selected Toyota Hybrid models ranging from the: C-HR, RAV4, Yaris, Prius or a Prius plug-in and in turn driving the competition's comparative model to evaluate the smooth drive, fuel economy and running costs for each.

Each driver had an hour's slot where they drove the vehicles on a varied route of urban and motorway driving, putting each car through its paces in the different driving



Tester David Brown and salesman Michael Mahrra

arenas. You could say it's was not much of a challenge especially with the Toyota's unique hybrid system and its ability to recycle energy that other car models normally waste, you can benefit from fuel economy of up to 94mpg.

Toyota's Hybrid also benefit from up to 30 per cent less servicing costs and up to 40 per cent better fuel economy than the competitors models, better still that's up to 40 per cent better fuel efficiency than an equivalent diesel engine.

So you won't just enjoy the drive. You'll enjoy the savings, too. That's better. And that's not all. You'll save on maintenance, too. About 30 per cent less maintenance costs when compared to a non-hybrid. That's because hybrid vehicles have less wear and tear on items like brake discs and tyres, and you don't have a clutch.

Toyota are in fact the world leaders in hybrid technology and there are more than nine million hybrid drivers worldwide.

The latest Toyota Hybrid launched in January 2017 the C-HR Hybrid Dynamic car has an average fuel consumption of 72.4 - 74.3 mpg and CO2 emissions of 86-87g/km.

A majority of the test drivers said that the Toyota Hybrids were their choice for driveability and eco friendliness.

\*All mpg and CO2 figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect the attendees actual driving experience.

# Morgan: Britain's oldest family-owned car maker

Nestled within the Malvern hills lies Morgan – one of the oldest-surviving car manufacturers in the UK. Established in 1909 by H F S Morgan with the creation of the original three-wheeler, it only moved to four wheels in 1936 – and things have stayed pretty much the same ever since. It's now the last family-owned British motor manufacturer – and family values are still visible throughout the build process.

With coach building at its heart, Morgan is a company that keeps traditional values at the forefront, using classic building techniques as well as ultra-modern processes. It's this combination that has ensured Morgan's popularity – and it now builds well in excess of 1,000 cars a year, with order books near constantly full.

With three distinct ranges – 3, Wheeler, Classic and Aero – the Morgan list of cars is as varied as the processes that are used to create them. And with the vast majority of creation and manufacture taking place in-house, there's a distinct sense of family to the entire operation. It feels worlds away from the robot-controlled production methods that are used by modern manufacturers.

### Iconic

We were let off the leash to discover the ins and outs of Morgan's factory – as well as get the chance to meet some of the people who help create such iconic cars.

The process starts with a chassis. It's made from bonded aluminium, which creates a stiff foundation for the entire car. This first room sees the wiring loom fitted, along with the fuel tank – you could even start the car here if you wanted to.

These chassis are brought in from a company in Birmingham – a relatively short trip from Malvern. This process is used to create the 'modern' Morgan cars – classic versions use a combination of aluminium and ash. It may be an old-school material to use but it ensures incredible lightness, as well as making these cars surprisingly eco-friendly.

Those classic models employ a chassis created from ash pieces that are pre-cut in a mill on site. The pieces are then glued and pre-assembled, after which they are hand-finished and treated for longevity.

Morgan cars use a variety of engines from established manufacturers. The Plus 4, for instance, utilises a 2.0-litre engine from Ford while the larger Aero 8 uses a powerful BMW-sourced 4.8-litre V8. These engines are an intricate part of the entire car – so it's no wonder that Morgan chooses reliable, well-trusted powerplants for its vehicles.

With each new section of the build process comes a new smell. The tin shop, for instance, smells – unsurprisingly – of metal, while the wood shop – our next stop – smells just like an old woodwork classroom, or a D&T room for younger readers.



In the cabin everything is stitched by hand, although some elements may be aided by computers



There are no shrouds, no frosted glass windows, everything is in plain sight and simple to understand



The process starts with a chassis, made from bonded aluminium, which creates a stiff foundation for the car

All Morgan cars rely upon some form of hand-worked wood element. Technicians here use hand tools to get each piece spot on before it's used in a vehicle, though some modern techniques such as vacuum bonding are also used.

Morgan has original wood plans dating back to the 1950s – and it can still make one that way today.

Using ash means that each car is able to absorb bumps in the road, giving it a better ride than you'd expect.

An amazing tool that's used to create the classic model's wheel arches is a jig made entirely from oak – and it's been there so long that the vast majority of people working at Morgan don't know when it was installed. The ash is left in there for around half a day, and is a classic version of the modern vacuum pressing method.

Whereas many manufacturers use wood veneer, Morgan uses the real thing. Each interior dashboard piece can be tailored to a customer's specification but it's always all-wood rather than plastic.

The level of personalisation on offer is hard to get your head around. Seats can be trimmed in a variety of different leathers and can be embossed with the Morgan logo – or even a customer's name, should they want it applied.

Everything is stitched by hand, although some elements are aided by computers. Similar to the car's use of modern engines with traditional building materials, each

manufacturer process is a seamless blend of the new and old.

Of course, there's one three-wheeled addition that we haven't mentioned just yet. The original three-wheeler was Morgan's first car, with production starting shortly after the end of the First World War in 1918. It used a two-speed transmission and remained in production until the early 1930s.

### Process

The modern 3 Wheeler certainly has the looks and build of the original, with a V-Twin motor sitting proudly at the front of the vehicle and weighing in at just 525kg.

However, these vehicles are created in a separate part of the factory and have their own dedicated production line. Because the build process is so far removed from that of the standard Morgan cars, it was decided that it needed its own area – and that's exactly what it got. It's proved immensely popular, and is selling in America as well as in Europe.

Thousands of people take a tour of the Morgan factory each year and it's easy to see why. There are no shrouds, no frosted glass windows, everything is in plain sight and simple to understand.

There's one word to describe Morgan: honest. If there's something that car manufacturers could use a little more of – especially in this day and age – it's honesty, and it's a feature that Morgan has by the bucketload.

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### Express & Star

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### 4 Pets & Animals

### Equestrian Corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

### Guns & Dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

### Pets Corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.

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### 5 Business & Farming

### Business Opportunities

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### 6 Property

### Overseas Property

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# WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!

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Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901  
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**NOTICE TO READERS**  
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

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Studios from **£90pw\***

Rooms from **£65pw\***

\*Includes Most Bills

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**£99,000**  
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REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

### 7 Jobs

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**VERY EXPERIENCED NATIONAL CPC HOLDER**  
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## Express & Star

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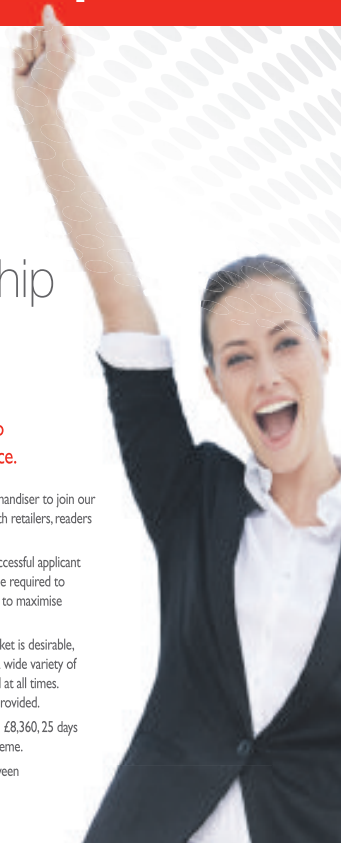
The Express and Star are looking for a sales relationship merchandiser to join our team helping to grow audience, strengthen the relationship with retailers, readers and ensure the brand experience is positive.

Working within a busy customer focused environment, the successful applicant will work as part of a team, in designated territories, you will be required to ensure that all our titles are available, in key strategic positions to maximise response and exposure.

Previous sales or merchandising experience in the FMCG market is desirable, but not essential. The ability to react quickly and positively to a wide variety of situations is required. A professional attitude must be displayed at all times. You must have a full current driving licence, transport will be provided.

In return we offer full training and support, an annual salary of £8,360, 25 days holiday per year and enrolment into the company pension scheme.

The position is 20 hours per week worked across 5 days between Monday-Saturday, weekends and Bank Holiday working will be required on a rota basis.



If you would like to be considered for this role please send your cv and covering letter to:  
HR Department Midland News Association, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES  
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## 8 Motoring

### Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



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2011, 46,000 miles, MoT April, lady owner last five years. Tax £30.  
**£6,250 ono.**  
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### LOOK

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**£4,750.**

Phone for more details on  
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**CLASSIC JAGUAR SOVEREIGN**  
**5.3 SERIES 111 HE.**  
1984. Owned since 2002. Garaged most of its life. Air Con. CD Player. Power Steering. Leather trim. Central Locking. 89,162 miles. MoT July 2018. Must be seen.  
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SW 2.0 HDi 136SE.  
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17" alloys, glass electric sun roof, tinted glass, alarm, PAS. All MoTs, S/H. 32,000mils.  
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**First best offer.**  
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## 9 Local Information

### Public & Legal Notices

#### Licensing Act 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PREMISES LICENCE

An application for a new premises licence has been made by Great Wyrley Sports and Social Club (2008) Limited, to South Staffordshire District Council in respect of premises to be known as Great Wyrley Sports and Social Club (2008) Limited, 345, Walsall Road, Great Wyrley, Staffordshire WS6 6DP.

The application is as follows:  
1. To enable the retail sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises, every day of the year, Monday to Sunday 0900-0100 hours.  
2. Plays, Films, Indoor Sporting Events, Boxing and Wrestling, Live music, Recorded music, Performance of dance, or anything of a similar description, every day of the year, Monday to Sunday 0900-0100 hours.  
3. Late Night Refreshment every day of the year, Monday to Sunday 2300-0100 hours.  
4. Premises open to the public every day of the year, Monday to Sunday 0900-0130 hours.

Any representation by responsible authorities or any other person regarding the application must be made in writing to The Licensing Officer, South Staffordshire District Council, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, Staffordshire WV8 1PX by the 20th October 2017.

Persons wishing to view the application may do so by contacting the licensing unit on 01902 696250 email: [licensing@staffs.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@staffs.gov.uk)  
It is an offence liable on summary conviction of a fine up to level 5 (£5,000) on the standard scale to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with the application.  
Dated: 22nd September 2017



### ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(a) THE A5 TRUNK ROAD (BROWNHILLS) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) intends to make an order on the A5 Trunk Road, at Brownhills in the County of Staffordshire and the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall, to allow kerbline alteration, gully relocation, footway, traffic signalling, and signing and road marking improvement works to be carried out. The effect of the Order will be to -

- close-
  - the eastbound and westbound carriageways of the A5 from the roundabout junction with the A452 and Wilkin Road, to the roundabout junction with Hanney Hay Road and Barracks Lane;
  - any gap in the central reservation of the length of the A5 described in 1.i) above; and
- prohibit any vehicle from entering or leaving the length of the A5 described in 1.i) above at its junction with any side road.

The work is expected to start on Monday 30 October 2017 and continue for 5 months. Full closures will be in operation overnight between 20:00 hours and 06:00 hours. The Order will come into force on Monday 23 October 2017.

Vehicles being used for police, fire and rescue authority or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or for winter maintenance purposes will be exempt from the closures and prohibition. Access to properties will be maintained at all times.

Diversion routes via the A452, the A461, the A5190, the B4154, Barracks Lane, Lichfield Road, Chase Road, Hospital Road, Ogley Hay Road, and Miners Way will be signed.

For further information, please contact Purnima Kaul on 0300 470 3140.

**Karen Eustace**, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

## 10 Personals

### Personal

**FREE TEXT MESSAGES** from women wanting discreet ADULT FUN! Call 01216 202445 for full details. Discretion assured!



#### GENTLEMAN 70

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#### HUY GUYS

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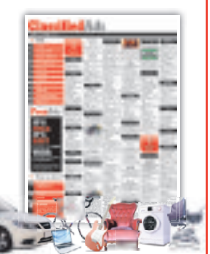
GSOH, own house and car etc. Solvent. Modern outlook and dress sense. Mid 50's. Divorced. No Ties. Seeks lady slim/medium with similar attributes for Friendship, possible relationship. Would not normally go down this route but giving it a try. You might be out there ?  
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(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)





Charlemont Star pictured in 1976 with boss and founder Garth Thomas (top left)



Star line-up for a photo call during the 1988/89 campaign



Andrew Wilcoxson (back right) and his current squad on their most recent European tour



Past and present players gather at recent reunion

# Star's still shining bright 60 years on

SIX decades on from their formation, Charlemont Star continue to give their players the chance to shine.

The amateur football club, based in West Bromwich, celebrated their 60th anniversary recently at Dartmouth Golf Club, where current and former players joined to share tales of their time with the Star.

They were formed in 1957 by Garth Thomas, who died in 2015. Over the years he retained a keen interest in the goings on and was kept regularly updated.

An extract from Thomas' memoirs read: "Up until I was 23 my routine was to have a kick about with local teenagers at Bird End. Gradually those got longer, so one Saturday afternoon in July the lads suggested we start a team. At the time I only gave it a week or so believing it would be a seven-day novelty."

## Consistent

The club have been blessed with commitment and consistent management, firstly under Thomas, before Baz Plant took up the reins in the 1980s. Current boss Andrew Wilcoxson joined the club in the mid 1990s, managing alongside Dave Stocking and Richard Cox, and has been sole manager since Star's reformation in 2010 following a brief break.

The club originally competed in the West Bromwich Sunday League, later named the Sandwell League. They regularly went toe-to-toe with rivals The Bush, Wones United, Prince Regent, White Swan and Churchfield Tavern in their early years.

For the most part of their existence, Charlemont's home base has been Hydes Road playing fields in Wednesbury. They have just secured permission to return to Churchfields playing fields in West Bromwich for the current campaign. Hamstead Hill has also been another home.

An array of former players returned for the club's latest milestone celebration. Plant, a re-

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Lewis Cox

***"It's giving lads the opportunity to play. It's organised. All they have to do is turn up and play."***

tired schoolteacher, 60, who played and managed for around 15 years, said: "When I joined there were various characters from the around the Stone Cross and Charlemont area. John Garnzarek, who has sadly died, Keith Willetts, Jimmy Young - they were the main characters, and they welcomed me whole-heartedly with Garth.

"Garth was larger than life in more ways than one. A big guy, 20 stone plus. I had a yellow Mini when I started and he got in it and buckled the car door.

"We'd regularly finish seventh or eight in the league. We never got relegated despite finishing so low, even when finishing bottom! It's fantastic at the moment. The job that Andy's done is absolutely brilliant."

Wilcoxson described moving to the Birmingham Festival League as 'a shot in the arm' for the club. Star enjoyed success at the turn of the millennium, gaining promotion to Division Two alongside a couple of handy cup runs in the Birmingham County FA Junior Cup.

Their only time out of action was a brief break of four seasons between 2006 and 2010 before Wilcoxson launched the club again, attracting a new squad that entered the West Midlands Christian Football League.

In seven years they have provided opportunities to hundreds of youngsters both in the region and, remarkably for a local amateur side with one member of staff, on the continent.

Star head out on an annual European tour. Since their reformation they have been away to Germany, Austria and Norway, facing local

sides from their European counterparts. Star have forged close bonds with Bremen outfits TV Bremen-Walle and Bremer SV, whom they have played twice. They have also gone up against FT Gern, a youth club of German international Phillip Lahm, and Didi Hamann's ex-club FC Wacker Munchen.

The tours, organised by their boss, remain an attractive proposition to players, who enjoy both the social and competitive aspect of the club's set-up. They head out to Leipzig in Germany next May.

Wilcoxson, 48, from Telford, said: "It's giving lads the opportunity to play. It's organised. All they have to do is turn up and play. Everything's provided for them. They are grateful, they don't express it too often, it's nice when they say they appreciate what you do."

"I don't want 'thank you's and praise, you make memories and friends. It was nice at Garth's funeral with how many former members attended."

"Without Garth's commitment and dedication to the club it would have folded many years ago. There wouldn't be a Charlemont Star. He was always interested and helped us financially."

Oh his jet-setting side, the boss added: "Many of the games stick in my mind because they're good, competitive matches. Then there's the memories and camaraderie with our hosts after the games."

"The standard of football there, at amateur level, is well-organised but player-for-player, they're close. Though we've picked a few anomalies where they've been quite a bit better than us!"

The future looks bright for Star, who are sponsored by Attewell Opticians and also the Red Lion pub in West Bromwich, with whom they have just struck a new partnership.

The club are always on the lookout for new players, and are particularly in search for a goalkeeper for the current campaign. Anybody interested in supporting, sponsorship, coaching or playing can contact Wilcoxson by emailing [ajwilco@sky.com](mailto:ajwilco@sky.com).

## Fan favourite Lescott makes return to city

JOLEON Lescott is on his way back to Wolverhampton for a special night with fans in December. Lescott remains a popular figure in the city thanks to his time at Wolves where he started his career after joining as a trainee.

He was part of the Wolves side which won promotion to the Premier League for the first time in their history in 2003 at Cardiff and played more than 220 games before moving to Everton. He will talk about his career and meet fans at the Cleveland Arms, Stow Heath Lane, on December 7.

After three years on Merseyside, Lescott went on to win two Premier League titles, an FA Cup and a League Cup at Manchester City before spells back in the West Midlands at Albion and Villa.

It will be the first time the former England international, who won 24 caps, has done a stage appearance and he will be alongside former Wolves promotion-winning team-mate Matt Murray. VIP tickets, to include a meet and greet, buffet, priority seating and signed photo, are on sale at [clevelandarms.com](http://clevelandarms.com) or the venue, by phone 01902 451021. Standard tickets are £12.

## Heathens heroes sign up for Golden Hammer

TWO modern-day Cradley heroes are already on board for the 2017 F.A.S.T Golden Hammer on October 23.

Ashley Morris and Max Clegg are the first two riders confirmed for the famous individual event taking place at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green at 7.30pm.

Current captain Tom Perry is also expected to be a part of the line-up. Heathens club chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We're delighted we can now round off the year with the Golden Hammer."

"Having Ash and Max as the first two confirmed names is a great way to start building the line-up."

He added: "We've been able to schedule it for the Monday of the half-term school holidays and therefore we are delighted to offer free admission to children aged 12 and under."

Admission prices are £15 for adults, concessions £10, £5 for 13-to-18-year-olds and free for under-12s.

## Doyle retires over concussion fears

FORMER Wolves striker Kevin Doyle has announced his retirement from football - after repeated incidents of concussion. The 34-year had been playing in the MLS for Colorado Rapids and took advice from consultants.

Republic of Ireland international Doyle was Wolves' record signing when he moved to Molineux for £6.5million from Reading at the start of the 2009/10 season.

Doyle played a starring role as Mick McCarthy's side avoided relegation from the Premier League, scoring nine goals in 34 appearances. He would stay with the club until 2015 when, after loan spells with Crystal Palace and QPR, he signed for Colorado. In all he netted 33 times in 179 Wolves games, his most memorable goal arguably the winner in a famous 2-1 victory over Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United in 2011.

In a statement, Doyle said heading the ball had become 'problematic' and that two concussions this season alone have forced him to take medical advice.





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## Comfortable Wood win closes gap

**RC Warwick 0 Walsall Wood 4**  
WOOD closed the gap at the top with a comfortable four-goal victory. A draw for Studley mean Wood trail by two points with two games in hand.

After a tight start Wood took the lead on 22 minutes. From a right wing corner Mitch Tolley saw his powerful header hit a defender and drop into the path of Paul Sullivan who fired home.

Within two minutes Wood doubled their lead. Andrew Westwood won the ball in midfield before playing a measured through ball forward, Tony Clarke was strong as he held off two defenders and neatly chipped the advancing Tom Cross as he came out to meet him.

By 37 minutes Wood had wrapped the game up. A long ball forward found Sullivan who took the ball down, ran away from his marker and gave the advancing Cross no chance as he slotted home his second and Wood's third.

The Racers should have reduced the deficit on 43 minutes, but Adam Wright headed wide. In response, Sullivan fired a shot off the post with Clarke putting the rebound wide.

Only three minutes of the second half were gone when Wood made it four. After a sloppy pass let in Clarke, Cross saved bravely at his feet, but the ball squirmed away to be collected by Sullivan and he unselfishly rolled the ball across the box for Jordan Fitzpatrick to nonchalantly tap home.

## 10-man Gornal deny unbeaten Darlo with injury time penalty

**Darlaston Town (1874) 1 Gornal Ath 1**  
AT a rainswept Paycare Ground Darlaston Town (1874) extended their unbeaten start to the season to eight games, but were denied all three points at the death by a resolute 10-man Gornal.

A nasty clash of heads just 11 minutes in saw Darlo lose top scorer Scott Broadway to hospital. Gornal full-back Lee Glasby also suffered a nasty head injury.

Darlaston made a bright start to the second half. Tyrone Clarke O'Connell clipped the post then, on 58 minutes, just five minutes after coming on, Gornal lost substitute Russell Brooks for a foul on Dave Richards. However Darlaston found the 10-men hard to break down.

To the relief of the 117 crowd Darlaston's efforts were rewarded in the 79th minute as Hughes latched onto a loose ball to score.

But in injury time, a penalty was awarded for a push on Ben Podmore and Geoff Hill scored, the first goal conceded by Darlaston in 275 minutes.

Saturday is Non-League Day with Darlo taking on Allscot FC at The Paycare Ground at 3pm.

## Firm distributes sponsorship deal



Striker Tyler Roberts with Craig McCracken

AN automotive parts distributor has signed a sponsorship deal with Walsall FC.

Midwest Motor Factors will have branding throughout the Saddlers 11,000 capacity Banks's stadium and has provided player sponsorship for striker Tyler Roberts, who is on loan from Premier League club West Bromwich Albion.

The Wales u-21 international has so far scored three times since joining the Saddlers.

Midwest Motor Factors is a strong supporter of local clubs and charities in the West Midlands,

sponsoring Bilston Town FC and Wolverhampton speedway and makes regular donations to local schools and the West Midlands Air Ambulance.

Craig McCracken, group factor manager, said: "We're delighted to be a leading sponsor for the 2017/18 season."

Walsall chief executive, Stefan Gamble, said: "The company's strong links with the community mirrors our own and this, coupled with their innovative ideas, makes for an exciting partnership in the months ahead."

# GET UGLY, BOSS TELLS SADDLERS

**BOSS Jon Whitney believes Walsall must learn to win ugly to improve their away form.**

The Saddlers slipped to a 2-0 loss at Wigan on Saturday – with former Saddler Will Grigg netting both goals, writes Joe Masi.

Whitney's men achieved their first away win of 2017 in their previous outing on the road at Oxford. But they were convincingly beaten at the DW Stadium.

And Whitney accepted the performance in Greater Manchester was not good enough.

"We need to do more to pick up wins away from home," he said. "It was great getting that win at Oxford. But sometimes you need to come away from home and be quite ugly. There are times when you need to scrap and fight and I don't think we did that at Wigan."

### Threat

"We want to entertain at home and play with energy. But we need to keep that away from home as well."

Whitney was pleased with the impact made by substitute Dan Agyei, the Burnley loanee looking a threat. "He was the one big plus. I've told him that," the boss said.

The hosts were dominant from the off and within eight minutes they could have been out of sight. They did eventually take the lead when Callum Elder found space before delivering a dangerous low cross.

Both Gillespie and Powell went for the ball with the Saddlers keeper just getting in first to palm it away. But the two players collided and, with the keeper on the floor, Grigg fired into an empty net. Whitney confirmed they will continue to assess Gillespie but is not expecting the injury to be serious.

With Wigan dominating possession, it was no surprise to see them double their advantage.

James Wilson brought down Grigg with a last-ditch challenge in the box and he striker fired past substitute keeper Liam Roberts.



Erhun Oztumer goes for goal at the DW Stadium, but the Saddlers were soundly beaten

## Battling performance despite defeat

### Leek 10 Walsall 5

A WALSALL team, showing six enforced changes from the previous week, put up a battling performance against a strong Leek outfit. Once again, there was a debut for one of Walsall's talented teenagers, with Sam Garbett displaying some good running skills from full back.

Simon Drew posted the first

try, converted by McDermott. Flanker Hickman pulled a score back for Walsall, but a McDermott penalty was the only other score.

This Saturday Walsall visit Droitwich in the second round of the RFU Intermediate Cup.

Walsall United suffered their first defeat of the season, 40-5 to Camp Hill 2nds. The demands

of supplying the Walsall first team with players meant they were not as strong as usual. Roger Weston scored the host's only try.

Walsall 3rds eventually won 32-21 against Leek thirds with tries for Adam Knight, Sam Forrester, Gavin Jones to add to two from Andy Field, two conversions and a penalty.

## Spar dates help boxers pack punch

WALSALL'S top professional boxing prospects joined forces, sparring together ahead of their latest ring dates. And it stood Bloxwich fighter James Beech Jr in good stead as he went on to record his fourth consecutive victory.

Beech worked out with Shaun Cooper before going on to record a third round technical knockout against Russ Midgley at Walsall Town Hall last weekend.

Meanwhile Cooper, a graduate of Walsall Wood Boxing Club, will tackle his third pro bout on October 20 at the Venue in Dudley.

The 20-year-old lightweight, trained by Peter Hickenbottom and managed by Jon Pegg, has outpointed Qasim Husain and Luke Fash so far.

He competed in 43 unpaid contests and won four area titles in England Boxing competition, reaching a Schools Championship national semi-final.

Also flying the flag for the town this month will be Bloxwich boxer Luke Paddock. 'Cool Hand', 25, co-challenges for the vacant IBF Youth crown against Adam Hague at Walsall Town Hall on October 14. The former Midlands champion and English title challenger passed 20 pro outings in his last bout and he has only ever lost twice.

Tickets for the Paddock v Hague bill are on sale at £35 and £60 ringside in advance with the latter including a light buffet. It will be £40 standard entry on the door. For more details and tickets for Cooper's show, call 07976 283 157 or contact the boxer via Facebook.

## Pics in trouble after failing to hold on

**Rushall Olympic 1 Warrington 2**  
PICS remain in trouble towards the foot of the Evo-Stik Premier, despite taking the lead against Warrington Town, AJ Adekan heading home a cross from Kristian Scott.

Against the run of play, the visitors were back on level terms when home goalkeeper Jonathan Brown brought down Jamie McDonald and up stepped Sean Williams to convert the spot-kick.

The home side were reduced to 10 men on the hour when Adekan was sent off. The visitors took advantage with the winner from Shaun Beeley 12 minutes from time.

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